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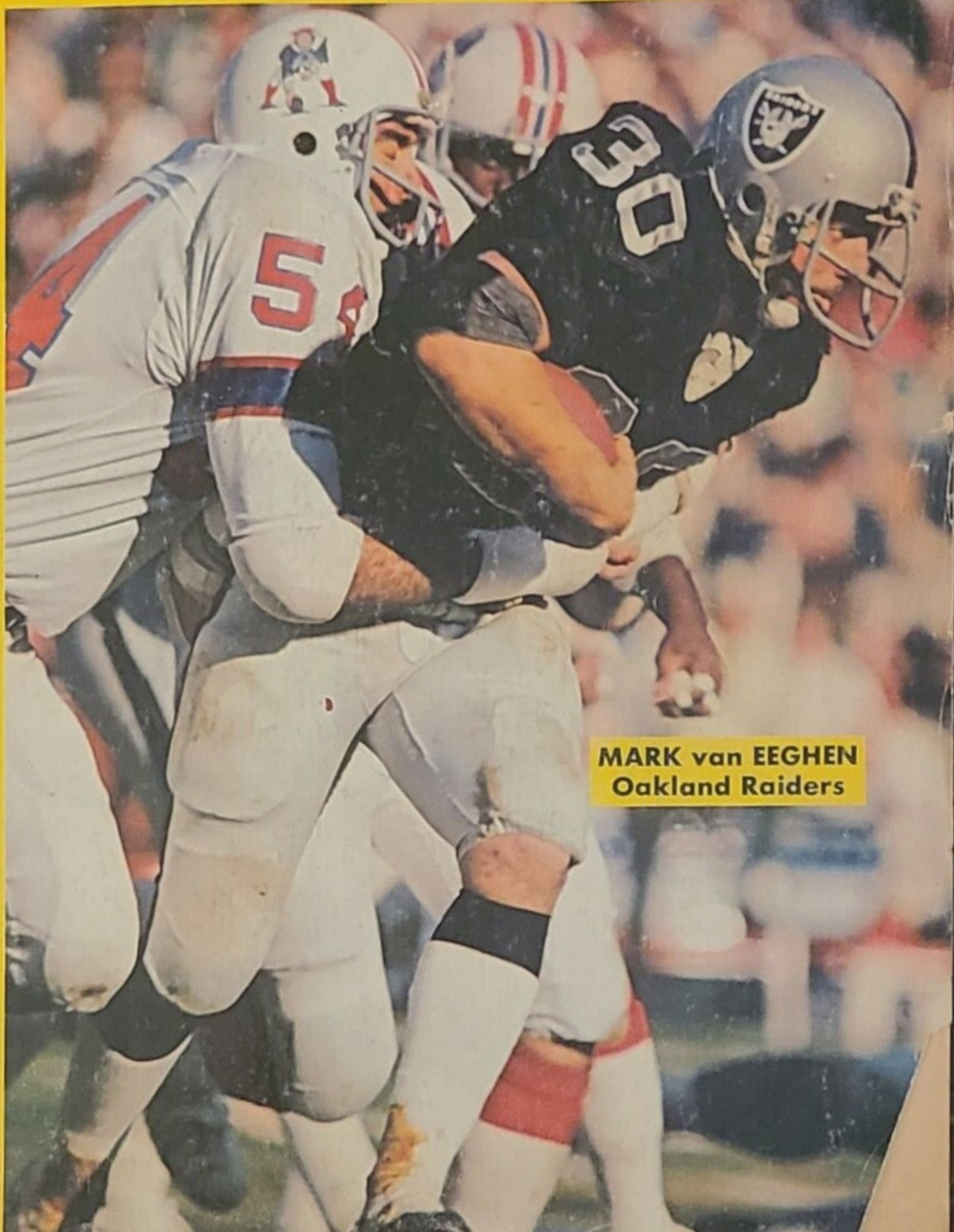
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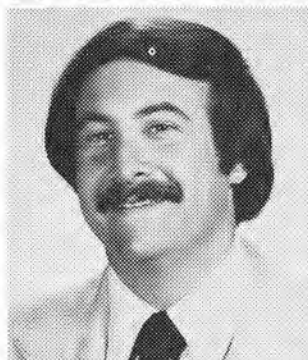


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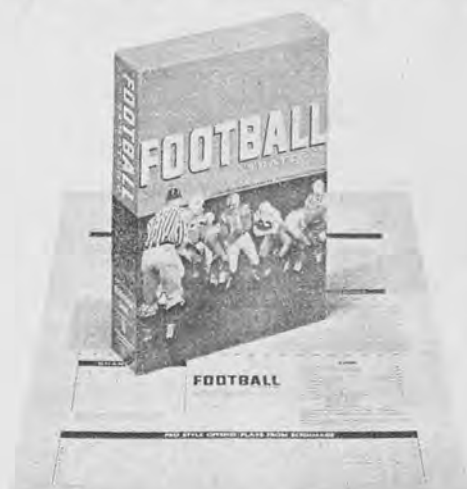


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# Football

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Biletnikoff of the Raiders "in going deep for the bomb," but few equal his ability in catching medium and short passes. New York Giants, led by a respectable front four backed up by solid linebackers, will be difficult to run against but will struggle against the pass. Of course, the Dallas Cowboys defense led by Harvey Martin will be impossible to run against and the pass rush in one word...devastating.

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# BLUNDERED CALLS

By Jerry Green

With delicate wisdom, the wizards of pro football recognized that kick, kick, kick had become boring. So they dug up the goalposts and shunted them back 10 yards to curtail the procession of field goals.

With eternal brilliance, the same gentlemen became aware that tie scores were a turnoff to the victory-conscious public obedient to the laws of Vincent Lombardi. So the melodramatists introduced sudden-death overtime to prolong the suspense and create additional thrills.

Nobody can dispute that pro football is the most innovative sport of all. It continually quests

to hype the entertainment value of its product. It rearranges rules, acts always to prevent suspicion, operates with Madison Avenue gloss at all times.

Yet, for a reason impossible to explain, it cannot get the men in black and white stripes to toot their whistles ALWAYS at the proper time.

Thus, despite all its pomp and circumstance, its feel for positive image, pro football's foibles have made Pete Rozelle blush. Pro football is being accused of laxity—or worse—because of an embarrassing succession of ill-timed calls.

There are bloopers, even in pro

football—and the way to correct them has been a puzzlement to Rozelle.

There simply is no way to overrule an official who has goofed and prematurely blown his whistle. Or has not blown it at all when he should have.

So it was at the end of the last season that pro football was afflicted with shame and ridicule. There were controversial calls in three climax games. The 1977 season will be remembered in history, primarily, as pro football's Year of the Zebra.

In the Year of the Zebra, three clubs—possibly—were knocked out of the Super Bowl playoffs

BERT JONES, Baltimore Colts quarterback (his head below #50) watches as ball bounces away after being hit by STEVE ZABEL (54) New England linebacker. Ball was whistled dead by referee FRED SILVA, who could not see ball from his angle.







ROB LYTLE, (41) of Broncos, being hit by Oakland's JACK TATUM (32) that knocked ball loose on goal line, but linesman ruled it no fumble. AL DAVIS, Oakland managing general partner, right, disputed explanation of call by NFL officials.

because of mistakenly tooted whistles.

The Raiders will believe forever they were deprived of playing in Super Bowl XII and the Broncos were put in because of an official's error.

The Dolphins will argue till doomsday that they were gypped from playing in the playoffs and the Colts were granted entrance because a referee's view was blocked.

The Oilers will insist for years that they were robbed of a possible chance for the playoffs when a herd of zebras missed a play.

The arithmetic of the results was brutally painful to the victims, innocents they claimed.

There was a total of 129 players on the three clubs plus their coaches plus millions of fans in the three cities who argued they were cheated of what was earned in games.

The details:

In the Colts' final season game, Bert Jones was struggling ahead on a busted play. Oops. He dropped the football. Oops. Fred Silva, the ref, could not see the

bouncing ball from his angle. So he did what was natural when a quarterback is struggling with linemen draped on his body. He—oops—blew the whistle before New England recovered the loose ball.

Retaining possession on what should have been a lost fumble, the profiteering Colts scored and won the game and took a playoff spot. The Dolphins would have gone had the fumble been called correctly. Instead they were out. Don Shula did not resort to sweet talk.

Neither did Oakland's Al Davis. His Raiders were defending Super Bowl champs. They were expected to beat Denver in the 1977 AFC championship game. They were expected to return to the Super Bowl.

But . . . a prematurely blown whistle stopped them.

Down near the Oakland goal line, Rob Lytle of Denver hit into the line. Lytle was popped by Jack Tatum and—oops—coughed up the ball. Oakland's Mike McCoy plunged his massive body around it and pulled it into the

pit of his stomach and started running. There was great jubilation among the defense. Oakland ball. But wait, head linesman Ed Marion had tooted his whistle before the fumble. He had signalled the play dead while Lytle was still upright, churning his legs. That he was upright and wiggling did not matter. The whistle is the only thing that matters. It had blown. The fumble was nullified. For the sake of history there never was a fumble. Denver was awarded with possession.

Floyd Rice, an Oakland linebacker detecting an injustice, responded with the fury of an angry man. He jostled Marion and umpire Ralph Morcroft, so animated was his argument. The zebras dropped their flags. The unsportsmanlike conduct penalty gave Denver the ball on Oakland's 1. Jon Keyworth scored for Denver on the next play. The Broncos won the game. The margin was three points. Those three points advanced Denver to the Super Bowl.

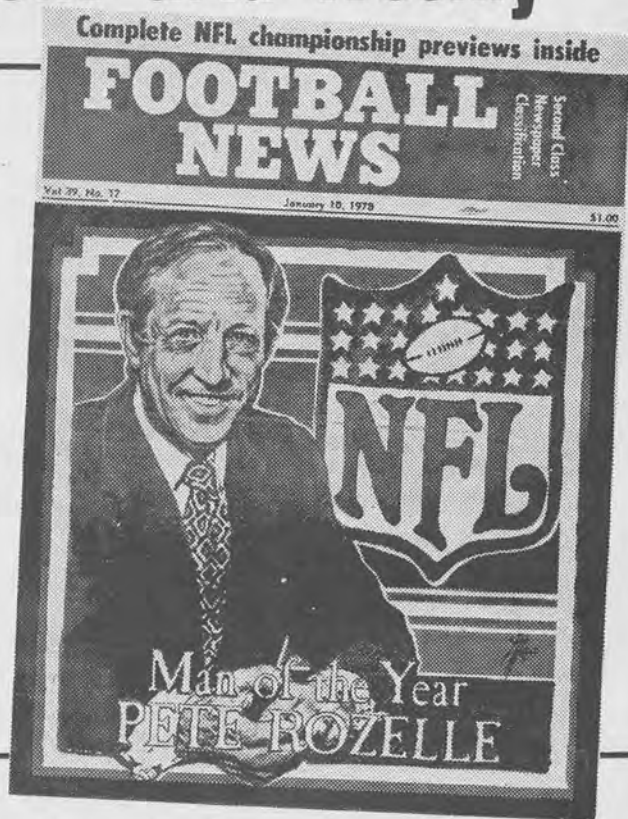
Now Lytle had been tutored with Boy Scout wholesomeness at



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JACK TATUM, Oakland safety, caused fumble by Baltimore Colts' Bert Jones.

the University of Michigan.

"That guy hit me and I felt it squirt out," he said. "It was a fumble. It looked like the ball was sliding on me, sticking on me. It's the breaks of the game. That's all I can say.

"In the heat of the game, I thought I had control. Looking it over now, somebody up there likes me."

The NFL, scrambling to cover-up, put out a weak statement. It declared Lytle's progress had been stopped, thus the whistle blew. Television replays disputed the official statement from the league's propaganda ministers. The tapes showed that Tatum's hit popped the ball from Lytle's grasp at the same time his forward progress was halted.

Al Davis never has been known for Boy Scout wholesomeness. He long has been aware of the bans against speaking out about officiating. He had been socked before by Commissioner Rozelle. Davis turned numerous colors. Then he spoke out anyway in defiance of Rozelle's gag edicts. Davis said:

"That wasn't bleeping questionable. That was a total bleeping mistake. I realize officials make mistakes. I accept that. But when they lie . . . what the hell do they have to lie for? I resent it when they lie, when they come in with their stories and tell it to us as if we're idiots. They make mistakes. They're human.

"The big lie . . . that's what bleeps me off. It's the same bleeping thing as Vietnam."

Twice in three weeks inoppor-

tune whistle blowing ignited charges against pro football's porcelain image. Twice in three weeks teams were removed from Super Bowl contention because of human error. Twice in three weeks the NFL tried to dodge the criticism with supportive statements of its harassed zebras. Twice in three weeks the television cameras which feed pro football showed conclusively there had been serious bloopers committed.

The third goof in the Year of the Zebra also involved a fumble that wasn't. But this was a quick, flash-flash play—and when the controversy concluded, the NFL acted in a very strange way.

The situation was this: The Oilers scored a touchdown with 27 seconds remaining in their game with the Bengals. That tied the score at 10-10. The overtime period pro football had put in to create addition thrills beckoned with all its suspenseful appeal. But first the formality of the Houston kickoff.

The ball sailed deep downfield toward the corner where the goal line and sideline meet at a right angle. The Bengals' return man danced into the corner and backed into the end zone. He had one foot in bounds by about a foot and a half. The other foot was suspended in the air. At that precise moment, the ball struck the man in the chest and bounced off. The players on both teams chased the bouncing ball in the end zone. The return man's suspended foot, during this flurry of activity, came to turf and was touching the sideline. The whistle blew—this was Fred Silva's unfortunate crew this time, too. Dead ball, foot touching out of bounds line when ball hits returnman . . . touchback, Cincinnati ball on its 20. "But I recovered the fumble," screamed an Oiler. "It's a touchdown." Touchback.

So indeed, the remaining 27 seconds disappeared and the game went dramatically into overtime with all its additional suspense and thrills. Not for Houston. Cincinnati won 13-10 on a sudden death field goal. At the end of the season, the Oilers

missed first place by one game.

But in this case after the review of the tapes and the films, the NFL made a strange confession. The officials indeed had goofed by depriving Houston its winning touchdown on the fumble. Cincinnati's return man did have a foot in the air when the ball hit him. The result could not be reversed—but the Oilers did get a letter of apology from Pete Rozelle.

The problem is not a new one for pro football in its eternal quest for perfection. Erroneous calls were made back in the leather-helmet era. But now they seem to be more frequent.

The year before the Year of the Zebra a quick whistler deprived the Bears of a touchdown. Again it was a popup fumble play and again the referee did not see it. The Bears lost the touchdown, the other team kept the ball and won by one point. The recipients of this largesse from an official's blunder were Al Davis' Oakland Raiders.

In 1975, Rozelle fined four prominent football men—three of them owners—for criticizing the officials. Among them was Al Davis.

The findings stemmed from a call against the Buffalo Bills in favor of—yep—the Dolphins. Again it was a fumble—or a no-fumble—play. Again it was late-season with playoff positions in contest. In this game Buffalo had trailed 21-0. But the Bills had rallied and were behind merely 24-21 in the fourth quarter. Miami had the ball in its own territory. Mercury Morris fumbled it as he hit the ground. Buffalo's John Skrupan pounced on it. And the Bills had the ball with victory in sight, the playoffs calling them. Oops. No fumble. Head linesman Jerry Bergman said so. And when Bergman was elbowed by Buffalo's Pat Toomay he tacked a 15-yard penalty on the Bills.

Reborn, the Dolphins marched for a touchdown and won 31-21.

Ralph Wilson, the erudite Buffalo owner, spoke these words: "It was a rotten call that cost our team a chance for the Super Bowl . . . The official who made that call should be barred from

(Continued on page 138)



# VALUABLE TIGHT ENDS

By Larry Felser

A National Football League scout whose frame of reference stretches back to the time when face masks were considered a sign of physical timidity and George Halas was just beginning middle age, snorted when he listened to all the speculation last spring about which team would end up with Earl Campbell, Texas' sensational Heisman Trophy winner.

"They're arguing about the wrong man," said the crusty old scout. "Campbell is a good running back, but unless a good running back gets with the right team, he's wasted.

"Look at Ricky Bell. Look at Chuck Muncie. For that matter, look at O. J. Simpson.

"No, if my team had one of those first few picks, I wouldn't be worrying about whether Campbell would be on the board or not, or whether I should take him.

"I'd be thinking about someone else."

Someone asked whom that might be.

"Ken MacAfee. He'll help which ever team drafts him two ways and he'll help them for the next 10 years."

Why MacAfee.

"Because he's a tight end. He's in the mold of Russ Francis and Dave Casper. And no team goes very far without a great tight end these days. Take a look at the playoff teams last year."

The scout's points have merit, if you stop to consider them.

Bell was swallowed up behind Tampa Bay's mediocre offensive line last year after the Buccaneers had paid him a record amount of money for a rookie. Muncie has disappeared behind second-rate blocking in New Orleans.

And even Simpson, who has had Hall of Fame individual statistics in Buffalo, participated in

the playoffs only once so far in his career.

"Tampa Bay needs receiving badly," points out the old scout. "MacAfee could give it to them. He can catch the ball. But they need somebody to open some holes for Bell and MacAfee can give them that, too. He's not only a top receiver but a 250-pound receiver who can block."

And the old scout is right about the playoff teams, too.

Dallas, the Super Bowl champion, has Billy Dupree, one of the NFL's most underrated players, at tight end. Denver has the superb Riley Odoms.

Dave Casper nearly put Oakland in the Super Bowl by his own efforts. Washington got to the playoffs after it signed another Dallas tight end, Jean Fetting, as a free agent.

What the old scout, and his younger colleagues, seek out in tight ends when they scout the nation's campuses is the most versatile big man on the field.

The 1978 model tight end must have the strength and power to block 280-pound defensive tackles and middle linebackers who have size, quickness and ferocity.

He must have the agility to escape the line of scrimmage in order to get into his pass routes. This involves fighting off the shoving, grasping and, yes, holding tactics of linebackers and safeties.

He must have skilled hands and intense concentration which surpass most of his teammates, since he's the man the quarterback is most likely to choose as a target on third-down situations.

CLARK SHAUGHNESSY, coach of undefeated Stanford U in 1940 in Rose Bowl bid, meets with his aces—L to R standing—Hugh Gallarneau, HB; Milt Vucinich, FB; Frank Albert, QB; Pete Knetovic, HB; Vic Lindskog, C; Kneeling—Stan Graff, E; Fred Meyer, E; Bruno Banducci, T; Dick Palmer, G; Charles Taylor, G; Ed Stamm, T.





KEN MAC AFEE, 6-4 and 250 pounds of power, was first pick in the draft by the San Francisco 49ers. Ken can open up great big holes for the runners and as Notre Dame tight end in 1977, he caught 54 passes for 707 yards and six TD's.

He must have wide-receiver speed in order to catch the game-breaking pass, as Casper did for Oakland in the playoff game against Baltimore last season.

If that profile had been submitted to NFL scouts before October of 1949, they would have considered the specifications to be for a machine rather than a man.

Football historians are a tedious, argumentative lot who bicker like fussy old professors of archaeology. Some of them maintain that tight ends pre-date World War II, maybe even the depression.

They squabble about who was the innovator and who was the borrower, attempting to discredit one another's theories.

But one thing seems certain: The era of the tight end began on a Sunday afternoon in October in the Los Angeles Coliseum.

It was a game between the Rams and the Chicago Bears. Clark Shaughnessy, whom many NFL people consider the Edison of Professional football, had been working on a problem and this was to be the date of his solution.

Shaughnessy was a special coach for the Rams. He was in

charge of research and development, as well as the instruction of players.

The problem to be solved was the defense then current in the 14-team NFL. In those days, just about every team played a 5-man line. The middle defender in the line was usually a huge man like Detroit's 320-pound Les Bingaman or Bucko Kilroy of Philadelphia, whom they called "The Choirboy."

The middle man was stationed over the opposing center. His function was to jam up traffic, congesting the area from guard to guard. The defenses used only two linebackers and they would jam the opposing wide receivers at the line of scrimmage.

Jamming the offense was easy to do, since the conventional method of attacking that defense played right into the hands of the jammers.

The backs were lined up in a "full house" formation—the fullback directly behind the T formation center and the halfbacks two arms' lengths away from him. The ends were lined up almost cheek-by-jowl with the offensive tackles.

It was nearly a built-in traffic jam.

Shaughnessy thought there was a better way.

Some offensive thinkers had tried to un-jam the traffic by using a man in motion. Shaughnessy thought motion was a half measure.

What he wanted was to put the defense in a fixed position. With an area cleared out, a passing attack could probe for the big openings. The Rams had the right passing attack. Two quarterbacks on the roster, Norm Van Brocklin and Bob Waterfield, later would be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. So would two of their other players, Elroy Hirsch and Tom Fears.

Hirsch was a halfback in those days. Shaughnessy felt that he was being wasted in all those traffic jams. Hirsch's nickname was "Crazy Legs," and names like that need open spaces.

Shaughnessy called a meeting of his offensive players the week before the Bears' game and explained his plan to them.

One end, Fears, would be split out a few yards from the offensive tackle. He also would be dropped about a yard off the line of scrimmage. Hirsch would be brought from the backfield and



placed on the other side of the line from Fears. He, too, would be split several yards from the tackle.

The conversion of Hirsch from halfback created what later was known as the "three-end system."

The third end was Bob Shaw, a tall, muscular former All-America basketball player from Ohio State. Shaughnessy stationed him between Hirsch and the tackle on the right side, split slightly away from that tackle.

The historians may bicker about it, but the popular notion is that Shaw, now general manager of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the Canadian League, was the pioneer tight end.

It would have been admirable drama if Los Angeles had won that first tight-end game. But Chicago was the winner. The Bears won on a late field goal by their rookie place kicker, George Blanda.

"We lost, but the big news was Shaughnessy's formation," remembered Shaw. "The next season, I was traded to the Chicago (now St. Louis) Cardinals. Curly Lambeau, the Cards' head coach, was using man-in-motion, but he changed to the three-end system during the season."

The reason everyone was using it was because the formation had defeated the traffic jams. The defense was being spread out. With the defense in a fixed position, great quarterbacks such as Van Brocklin, Waterfield, Charley Conerly, Y. A. Tittle, Otto Graham and Bobby Layne could maneuver their racehorse receivers.

After Shaw came such specimens as Ron Kramer of Green Bay, Jim Mutscheller of Baltimore, Mike Ditka of Chicago, John Mackey of Baltimore, Jackie Smith of St. Louis and Charlie Sanders of Detroit.

Shaw, who later coached some of the top receivers in the NFL as a longtime assistant, picks Sanders as the prototype tight end of the '60s and early '70s.

"He's as good as anyone I saw during that time," says the pioneer.

Ditka, now Dallas' receiver coach, says that Sanders' hands

made him the best "traffic" receiver of the era.

Sanders himself credits having played basketball in high school and college with preparing him for life among NFL linebackers and safeties.

"A 235-pounder without agility and maneuverability has no advantage at all as a pass receiver," he says. "He's just another tackle. But a guy that big with some basketball moves can lose a linebacker and then put himself in a one-on-one situation with a 185-pound strong safety."

"That's an advantage."

Many tight ends have had basketball backgrounds.

Ditka was sixth man on his University of Pittsburgh team. Shaw was an All-America basketball player at Ohio State as well as an All-America end. Kramer was an all Big 10 forward at Michigan. The Detroit Pistons drafted him in the second round.

Oscar Roan, Cleveland's tight end, played in the same UCLA freshman team as Bill Walton. Roan later transferred to SMU and concentrated on football.

The only man to play both pro basketball and pro football in recent years was a rugged forward for the Minneapolis (now Los Angeles Lakers) of the NBA and the No. 2 receiver for Philadelphia of the NFL.

He's coaching the Minnesota Vikings now. His name is Bud Grant.

For a while, NFL teams scouted and drafted college basketball stars who hadn't even played football since their high school days. The scouts' dreams revolved around an ideal player, something along the lines of George McGinnis, the Philadelphia 76ers' great forward who was a high school tight end in Indiana.

But that prototype has been appearing more frequently on their gridiron than the basketball court. Now there are 15 tight ends playing in the NFL who were drafted in the first round. Another dozen were drafted in the second or third rounds.

Low-round or free agent tight ends make it less frequently than almost any other position.

One exception is Cincinnati's

Bob Trumpy, who was a 12th-round pick on the Bengals' original draft list in 1969. But the man whom Cincinnati drafted as Trumpy's successor, Michigan State's Mike Cobb, was taken in the first round.

New England Coach Chuck Fairbanks puts such a premium on tight ends that he plays them in clusters.

When the Patriots got close to the goal line last season, Fairbanks used three tight ends at the same time. He lifted both wide receivers and played Al Chandler and rookie Don Hasselbeck in a normal, double tight-end formation.

The regular tight end, Francis shifted to a flanker position, behind Hasselbeck.

Consider some of the mismatches the Pats got when they ran a halfback sweep behind the blocking of the 6-foot-6, 240-pound Francis, the 6-7, 240-pound Hasselbeck and the 6-4, 235-pound fullback, Sam Cunningham.

Oakland is another club which uses three tight ends. Warren Bankston, the Raiders' special teams captain, lines up in the position on the other end of the line from Casper and Ted Kwalick, the onetime all-pro from the San Francisco 49ers, plays the flanker.

The complexion of Pittsburgh's offense is changing as young Bennie Cunningham learns the business. Cunningham has been called a bigger, younger version of Mackey, who was voted the best NFL tight end of the league's first half century.

The Steelers used to employ a new tight end each season, or so it seemed. One year they used three different tight ends for various situations.

But last year, they switched ex-starter Larry Brown to offensive tackle, making room for Cunningham in the starting lineup. Bennie could put Pittsburgh in the Super Bowl next January.

Buffalo is another team which plans on improving itself with a renewed emphasis on the tight end—singular.

Last year, the Bills just about  
(Continued on page 133)

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S&SP-78



# NFL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**DALLAS COWBOYS AGAIN DOMINATE NFC AS SEVEN COACHES TAKE OVER NEW CLUBS**

## PREDICTIONS

### Eastern Division

1. Dallas
2. Washington
3. St. Louis
4. New York
5. Philadelphia

### Central Division

1. Minnesota
2. Chicago
3. Detroit
4. Green Bay
5. Tampa Bay

### Western Division

1. Los Angeles
2. San Francisco
3. Atlanta
4. New Orleans

The hangman smiles and Pete Rozelle frowns.

"I don't like to see it," says Rozelle, whose most precious duty is to protect the integrity and image of professional football.

What he doesn't like to see so much of is teams changing coaches all the time. Bad for the stability structure of the game.

Never before had the hangman been so busy.

There are 10 of the 28 teams in the National Football League with new coaches this year. Seven of these 10 are in the NFC. That's a 50 percent turnover. This means that seven of the new teams are boasting the new coach-new approach slogan. It helps sell tickets, stir interest and it boggles the minds of the athletes. They pick up the new guy's playbook and learn that a blue-brown Sally, which had been a safety

blitz under the old regime, now is a fake field goal. The No. 1 hole of the line of scrimmage used to be off left tackle. Now it is over right guard. The quarterback has to unlearn the old before he can absorb the new.

In the historic scramble of hiring and firing last December and January, it did not matter how the teams had fared. Once upon a time losing was an excuse for firing the coach. Now winning is just as good a reason for giving a coach the ziggy, as Joe Schmidt delightfully called canning the coach when with Detroit.

Chuck Knox got it in Los Angeles. He had been a head coach five years and coached the Rams to five divisional titles. So far perfect. But he never got to the Super Bowl. Ziggy for Knox.

O.J. SIMPSON, the NFL's premier runner, has shuffled off to the 49ers.

JACK PARDEE, coach at Chicago for three years, now guides Washington.



## By Jerry Green

Sports columnist for Detroit News, Jerry Green is veteran observer of the National Football League activity.



## NFC FINALS-1977

### Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.
DALLAS	12	2	0	.857
Washington	9	5	0	.643
St. Louis	7	7	0	.500
Philadelphia	5	9	0	.357
New York Giants	5	9	0	.357

### Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.
MINNESOTA	9	5	0	.643
*Chicago	9	5	0	.643
Detroit	6	8	0	.429
Green Bay	4	10	0	.286
Tampa Bay	2	12	0	.143
*Wild Card for Playoffs				

### Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.
LOS ANGELES	10	4	0	.714
Atlanta	7	7	0	.500
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357
New Orleans	3	11	0	.214

### PLAYOFFS

Chicago	0	0	0	7-7
Dallas	7	10	17	3-37
Minnesota	7	0	0	7-14
Los Angeles	0	0	0	7-7



ROGER STAUBACH directed Dallas to its second Super Bowl last year.

George Allen had been in the playoffs five times in seven years in Washington. But he wanted more dough, even more power from the Redskins. Ziggy for Allen.

Jack Pardee had been coach in Chicago only three years. He was greatly responsible for the Bears' improvement. Last season he got them into the playoffs for the first time in 14 years. He said he expected such a team would have better facilities for working and playing. Ziggy for Pardee.

Don Coryell had achieved miracles in St. Louis. He had been

the five years and won the first divisional titles for the Cardinals in three decades. He wanted a greater say in obtaining the personnel for his team. Ziggy for Coryell.

Losers got it, too.

Tommy Hudspeth had coached a partial season, then a full one in Detroit, where the turnover is rapid. The Lions did not improve last year though they did not get worse. Ziggy for Hudspeth.

Ken Meyer had been summoned very late in San Francisco, after Monte Clark refused to stay last year because his power was removed. Meyer's 49ers could not cope because of mass confusion and inferior talent in his only season. Ziggy for Meyer.

Hank Stram had won in Kansas City and was expected to do the same with his innovative methods in New Orleans. He was to be a Messiah for the Saints, but in his second season Stram's team fell below the club's average of 3.6 victories per season. Ziggy for Stram.

Seven ziggies for seven men.

The NFC owners showed unusual imagination in their mass hirings.

George Allen, whom the Rams once tried to ziggy, couldn't, then had jumped to Washington, returned cross-continent to Los Angeles.

Pardee, dissatisfied in Chicago, replaced Allen in Washington.

Neill Armstrong, long on Bud Grant's staff in Minnesota, replaced Pardee in Chicago.

Bud Wilkinson, at 61, out of coaching 14 years, last associated with football as a college TV analyst, replaced Coryell in St. Louis.

Monte Clark, who had told the 49ers to stuff it because they



TOM LANDRY has been the only coach of the successful Dallas Cowboys.

drained his authority, replaced Hudspeth in Detroit.

Pete McCulley, who had been an obscure assistant on the Washington staff, replaced Meyer in San Francisco.

Dick Nolan, another former head coach of the 49ers and most recently an assistant with the Saints, replaced Stram in New Orleans.

For the record, Coryell, Meyer, Hudspeth and Stram did not get new head coaching jobs. But they must be regarded as candidates next time the hangman plays his fiendish games.



Chuck Knox, whom the Lions wanted and couldn't get a year ago, tried hard again to get the Detroit job. This time the Rams wanted to unload him. This time the Lions ignored his pleas, went for Clark. Knox completed the package by going to the Buffalo Bills.

Through all the shuffle, Tom Landry smiled that tiny, amused smile of his. Tom's Cowboys returned the NFC to the victor's side in the Super Bowl. The NFC had lost five of these Super Bowl spectacles in a row to the AFC. It had lost eight of the previous nine.

No wonder Tom Landry smiled.

Besides he didn't get the ziggy. He has survived 18 seasons of coaching **ONLY** the Cowboys. He is the **ONLY** coach the championship club has ever had.

But Dallas' victory over Denver in Super Bowl XII could give only a false joy to the long downtrodden NFC.

The Cowboys, in truth, are the only NFC team which belongs among pro football's elite. The NFC still lacks the balanced excellence which makes the AFC superior.

None besides Dallas in the NFC can match teams such as the Broncos, the Raiders, the Colts, the Steelers, the Dolphins, the Bengals, the Patriots. The Cowboys, as proven in all calculations, are the best team in pro football. But also they are the only NFC team among pro football's top eight.

The Vikings, as it has been said for years, are too, too decrepit. This has been proven in other Super Bowls and most recently against the Cowboys. The Rams are in some sort of state—perhaps flux—that they cannot win playoff games they ought to. That is why George Allen is back in LA; stripped as he is of the autocratic powers he considers normal.

Seven new coaches, but the NFC's most prized addition is an athlete.

The NFC now again has the foremost name athlete in Rozelle's Realm. O.J. Simpson will run this season for the 49ers. San Francisco got him for a pile of draft choices turned over to



CHUCK KNOX (left), a winner at Los Angeles, is the new Coach at Buffalo.

coach Chuck Knox in Buffalo.

Simpson adds glamor to a conference which has lately developed glamorous runners, such as a Walter Payton of the Bears and a Tony Dorsett of the Cowboys.

But O.J. comes to the NFC—and returns to his old hometown—with a suspect knee. There has to be some doubt now.

This deal is so similar to the image coup the NFC believed it had pulled off last year. Then the Rams brought to the NFC Joe Namath. Namath had been the symbol of the old American Football League. He had been the man who had started the long years of success of the Americans in the Super Bowls.

He came over damaged—much more damaged than The Juice. He played the first few games, was found so rusty, so wanting, he spent the last two months of the season on the Rams' bench. He went out with cobwebs on him.

So the NFC continues in a pitiful way to seek a better image.

The NFC still lacks the younger star quarterbacks of pro football. Most of them are in the AFC. Most of those in the NFC are on the shady side of 30. This is where the NFC falls in its perennial efforts to regain the old pride, the old romance.

Even so, Roger Staubach at age 36 ranks as the King of the

Quarterbacks. This is Dallas' strength of its many strengths.

Elsewhere in the NFC there are many questions about quarterbacks.

New coaches tend to desire new quarterbacks.

In Washington it is young Joe Theismann vs. the aging, gutty, nearly 39 Billy Kilmer.

In Minnesota, it is youthful Tommy Kramer against 38-year-old Francis Tarkenton, a former King of the QBs, who was felled midway through last season.

In Green Bay it is young David Whitehurst vs. oft-injured Lynn Dickey.

In Tampa Bay it is Mike Boryla vs. Gary Huff, vs. Randy Hedberg vs. Jeb Blount.

In Atlanta it is Scott Hunter vs. fragile Steve Bartkowski.

In New York, it is Joe Pisarcik vs. Jerry Golsteyn.

If the star-system prevailed in pro football—and it does—the bulk of the NFC quarterbacks would be obscure bit players Off-Broadway.

So it is that the Cowboys will be the dominant NFC team again in 1978. They have a marked superiority in manpower and in organization. They also have the best publicized—and perhaps the prettiest—cheerleaders.

The NFC East offers them scant competition against the Cowboys' plans to go to the playoffs for the 11th time in 12 years.



GEORGE ALLEN (left), the Rams' new coach, and owner CARROLL ROSEN-BLOOM (above) will try and win another NFC West title before dynamic GM JOE THOMAS (right) builds a big winner at San Francisco.



The Redskins of Pardee have oodles of talent, and oodles of problems. But it will be calmer in Washington now with Pardee and it will be saner. Pardee knows coaching, but returns to Washington as a coach lacking real flair. For a political comparison, it is reminiscent of a Gerald Ford assuming the position of a Richard Nixon. There will be competence, of course, but nothing flashy.

Bud Wilkinson will be heavily examined in St. Louis, where there was trenchant bickering in years past. The Cardinals may be the most poorly managed team of the Realm. They seem to prove it every year. Can a 61-year-old coach who has been away from football 14 years and never ever was in pro football win in the NFL? Does he belong in the NFL? It will be a very interesting study in St. Louis. But then it always is.

The Giants and Eagles, long the dungeon clubs in the East, figure to remain fixed in their annual battle for fourth.

It is certainly more interesting in the Central and Western NFC Divisions.

For years now people have been expecting the Vikings to wither away. They haven't for a couple of basic reasons. These reasons prevail again and they should win their 10th title in 11 years. The foremost reason for the Vikings' dominance for the last

several years has been the balanced weakness and inertia of the other teams in the Central. This is the poorest of pro football's division. It long ago stopped being Black and Blue and became pink and blue.

The Vikings, even with their great age, are sounder than the Bears and Lions.

The Bears are a team close to assuming the lead in this division. But not yet. Too many places are threadbare. Not enough stability.

Monte Clark was shocked with the dearth of talent in Detroit. With powers granted him in a total change of the Lions' management philosophies, he seems likely to build himself a contender. But it will take time, two or three years.

Green Bay, meanwhile, never has advanced since Bart Starr was brought back with the mandate that he should be Vince Lombardi reincarnated. Starr could even be in trouble in old Green Bay.

To this accumulation of mediocre to weak teams, the Central last year was joined by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The Bucs of John McKay go into the 1978 schedule with the NFC Central's longest winning streak. Two victories. After 0 for 26.

It is a documentary 1. of the NFC Central Division; 2. of the NFC as a whole.

In the West, there will be

much spice as George Allen's Rams do battle with Joe Thomas' 49ers bolstered by O.J. Allen says for the first time in his coaching career he does not show up with the need to do a rebuilding job. That is true and the Rams could even make it to the Super Bowl.

They'd better hurry. Joe Thomas, though disliked for his methods by so many in pro football, is a franchise builder. The 49ers will be torn down and rebuilt to excellence with McCulley handling the coaching and Thomas telling him what to do.

The Falcons are getting better. Leeman Bennett did the best coaching job in the NFC last year. He is no longer the unknown coach of pro football. But there still is quite a jump between the Falcons and the Rams.

The Saints in their entire history have never made a dent. Dick Nolan, who had been a winner, will suffer just as Stram did.

After the elongated 16-game schedule and with a new wild card entrant in the playoffs, the result should look the same in the NFC.

That is the Cowboys beating back the Rams and Vikings to go again to the Super Bowl. There the Cowboys have the capacities to take care of themselves against any of the rest of pro football's elite from the AFC—the Raiders, the Broncos, the Colts, the Dolphins.



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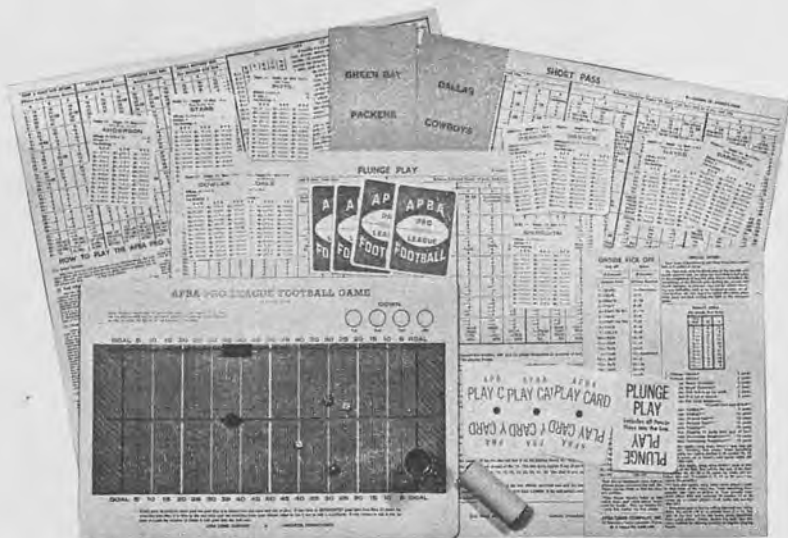
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# DALLAS COWBOYS

## PREDICTION 1st

**T**om Landry stands on the sidelines in his Fedora, stoic, icy, a figure familiar in every American household where television is tuned to football on Sunday.

There have been occasions when he was the object of seething ridicule. Duane Thomas, who played for Landry, once attacked the man with scurrilous charges. "He is a plastic man—no man at all," said Thomas.

Don Meredith, who was his quarterback when the success began long ago in Dallas, has jested about him to TV audiences. "Smile, Tom," says Dandy as Landry's expressionless mug flashes on the screen. "Oh you are smiling."

Now Landry has survived longer than the coaches on every team in professional football. He is not classified with the greatest coaches in the history of professional football. But yet he has a greatness and he might well be the very best who ever coached in the pros. He does not get such recognition because his personality does have a plastic quality. But that he is no man at all is untrue. He is a man, he is tough, he is durable, he works within the best meshed organization in the league.

Eighteen years ago when he himself was a rookie coach in Dallas, Vince Lombardi was a beginner himself in Green Bay.

George Halas had many years left of coaching in Chicago.

Paul Brown was at that time the only coach the Cleveland Browns had ever had.

Don Shula had just gotten into the business as a young assistant coach.

George Allen was not yet himself a head coach.

The game has undergone many, many shockwave changes since

Tom Landry's first day as a pro head coach.

Now he is still there with an ambitious—and also realistic goal. He yearns to do something no other coach has done before him.

"Being the first team to win three Super Bowls becomes a No. 1 challenge," he said.

It is a noble goal. Such an achievement would bring Landry the respect he has, for some reason, never received.

With the best personnel in pro football and with his coaching, there is no reason the Cowboys should not be first to win a third Super Bowl.

Oh, there is one reason. As pointed out by Landry himself.

"In returning to a level that won it for us last year, stress will come from the problem of complacency," Landry said.

Complacency! It is more terrifying to a football coach than a siege of injuries. It is more dangerous than a strenuous schedule. It is a greater pitfall than an insurrection in the locker room. It is an insidious malady that can paralyze an excellent football team until it becomes sick and ordinary.

"It can occur as an unconscious, relaxation-type thing which seems to take place on a team after you win. This is what we'll have to fight to return to the Super Bowl."

It is a crippling disease a coach can see and tries to prevent. But when it strikes, he is helpless.

It must be prevented before it strikes—and all Landry can do is warn his athletes, cajole them, control them. If he does, he deserves the credit.

Throughout the years—their 11 playoff seasons in the last 12—the Cowboys have replenished aging personnel with intelligent organization. The team which won the last Super Bowl in a 15-2

## TOM LANDRY, Coach.

Assistants: Ermal Allen, Ernie Stautner, Jim Myers, Jerry Tubbs, Bob Ward, Mike Ditka, Gene Stallings, Dan Reeves.

season is generally a young team. Eight starters have played pro only three years. Behind the other, older players are outstanding younger men awaiting opportunity. Through shrewdness, the Cowboys have been able to draft better than the other NFC clubs despite continued winning.

The young depth amassed by

TONY DORSETT scores Super Bowl's first touchdown with two-yard run.





ROGER STAUBACH is 36 years old, but he is extremely agile for his age.

Dallas now becomes more important in Landry's scheme.

The new 16-game season appeals to the spectators and the owners—but not the coaches.

"The schedule is going to be tougher, no doubt, and it will be tougher for all contending teams because the good teams will be playing each other more," Landry said with reason.

His Cowboys must play outside-division games against the Colts, Rams, Vikings, Dolphins and Patriots. Quite rugged.

"Since the new schedule has put teams on a more-equal basis," Landry said, "I think it will have a greater effect than most people think."

"Depth is going to be very important this year because of the extra games. I don't believe teams can play through the year without some injury damage to their team somewhere along the way."

"Coming off our Super Bowl win, another major goal for the Cowboys in '78 must be in relationship to the number of times we've been to the Super Bowl and to the number of times we've won."

"Going into 1977 we didn't really feel we were going to be as strong as we showed in the playoffs or in the Super Bowl, mainly because of the number of key changes that had to be made prior to the start of the year."

"The young players who stepped into the defense were especially important to our success."

Still, the Cowboys swing around Roger Staubach. Landry is ultracautious in talking about his quarterback because Roger is so vital.

"Whether or not he'll continue at a high performance level and how long he will is still a question mark," is Landry's guarded comment. "He's 36 and after you pass that 35-year-old mark you can start to level out pretty quickly."

Staubach did rank atop the passers last year. And doubtless, Landry wishes Roger would stick to passing and curb his natural instinct to run with the football. Staubach is fragile. He did go down for a while during the Super Bowl. An injury this year could be disastrous.

The Cowboys are extremely high on Danny White, the backup. Landry even talks—from the experience of other quarterback situations in his 18 years—of the possibility White would want to make a move elsewhere to play regularly. But actually, White remains potential, and he has not been proven in the NFL.

The Cowboys long have been blessed with magnificent running backs. Potentially, Tony Dorsett could be the best they ever ran. Though he didn't start until the middle of his rookie year, Dorsett became a Thousand-Yard runner his first season. Nonetheless, Landry jabs at Dorsett in what obviously is a psychological manner. Landry's public words

came out as though Dorsett had a lousy rookie year.

"Tony Dorsett's performance last year was average for him," Landry said. "He played much on instinct. He was trying to learn our system and was hurt quite a bit. The latter is a critical point for Tony."

"If he's willing to work hard enough all year, prepare himself physically, then it's unlimited what he might do. If he doesn't prepare as strong as a running back needs to, then he could be hurt a lot again. He's very much capable of gaining a lot more than the 1000 yards he had in '77, and with the 16-game schedule and an injury-free year, he should be in the 1500-yard area."

It seems like that was Landry's anticompacency speech No. 1.

In tandem with Dorsett, the Cowboys have Robert Newhouse, an under-recognized power runner who is always dependable.

There is the running depth other clubs envy—Preston Pearson, Doug Dennison, Larry Brin-

DREW PEARSON was the Cowboys' premier pass receiver during 1977.







BOB BRUENIG took over as Dallas' middle linebacker last season and did a respectable job filling the hole.

son, Charlie Young, Scott Laidlaw.

The receivers—brilliant, spectacular, deadly. Drew Pearson, Golden Richards, Butch Johnson specialize in spectacular catches. They are extraordinary, a pleasure for Staubach to throw to, a delight for Landry to coach. Behind them there is the potentially talented Tony Hill. Dallas is never just one-deep at any skill spot.

At tight end, the Cowboys are likewise blessed with the skilled, tough Billy Joe DuPree. He is backed by the aggressive Jay Saldi, Landry's play bearer to Staubach.

"The biggest concern in 1978," said Landry, "is the offensive line because Ralph Neely has retired and Rayfield Wright, whom we had hoped to have back from knee surgery by midseason in '77, never really came back strong enough to be a factor.

"If Rayfield comes through for us again and returns to form, don't have as big a problem. Losing two of our first string tackles, ones who have played for a lot of years, would be critical."

Pat Donovan filled in expertly

for a youngster in Wright's place throughout the Super Bowl season. If Wright is better, Donovan will shift from the right tackle to the left side as Neely's successor.

The offensive line has been done over through the years. It is now the youngest part of the offense. But it supplies tight protection for Staubach and ample holes for Dorsett.

Tom Rafferty has developed into an outstanding guard as successor to Blaine Nye, who retired before last season. Herbert Scott does well at the other guard and John Fitzgerald is a strong, positive force at center. One thing, he is accurate hiking the ball through the air to Staubach when the Cowboys go to the shotgun formation on third downs. In reserve the Cowboys have Burton Lawless, Andy Frederick and Jim Cooper on the line.

The defense has been a total force for the Cowboys in their transition from an ancient team to a young club while still winning. Gone now are such as Bob Lilly, Lee Roy Jordan, Mel Renfro from the old Doomsday Defense. But through the wise talent spotting of Gil Brandt the Cow-

TOM HENDERSON grabbed a can of Orange Crush after Super Bowl and crushed it in his bare hands.



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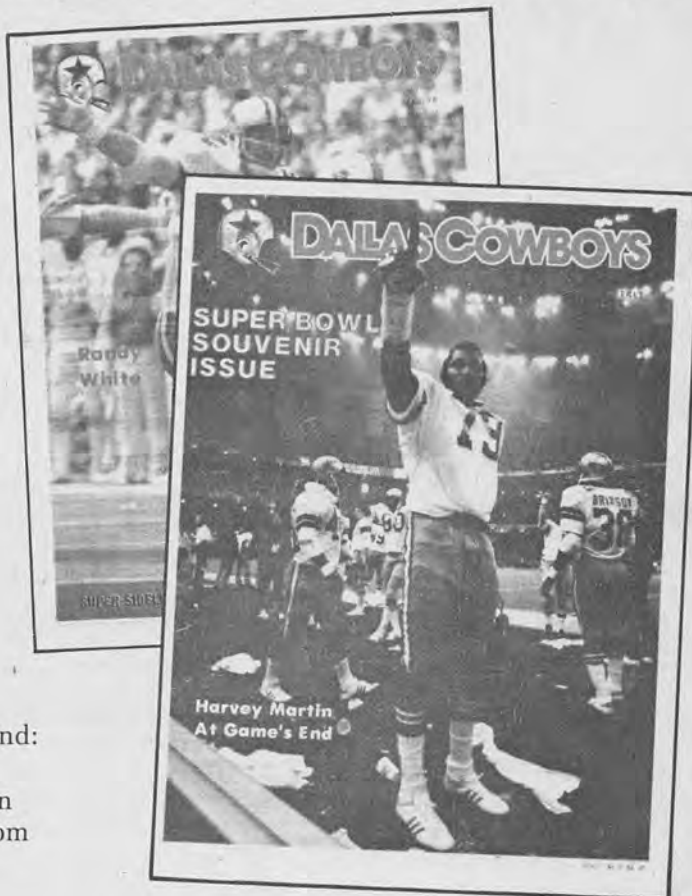
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EFREN HERRERA kicked 18 field goals in '77 and was Dallas' top scorer.

# STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

Charlie Waters are the best tandem in the NFC. Both have been All-Pro, a rarity Landry himself points out.

Renfro's departure leaves a gap at the corner. But Benny Barnes knows the position and young Aaron Kyle should be fully developed by now.

Dallas was one of the pioneer teams in stressing the kicking game. Efren Herrera is OK as a field goal man, though Landry wishes he would have a little more leg. Danny White doubles as the punter—and he has developed into an expert at the old art of the coffin corner kick. And White also is a threat to run the odd time and make it from punt formation.

Complacency could happen, as Landry warned. Don't all the other coaches wish that were their only problem?

boys come up with successors.

Ed (Too Tall) Jones and Harvey Martin make it hell for opposing passers with their outside rush. Randy White has turned into a magnificent player inside in consort with the lone oldtimer, Jethro Pugh. The defensive line is purely awesome. And, in their typical fashion, the Cowboys went into the draft intending that it become better in the future. Their top draft choice was Larry Bethea, a young giant lineman out of Michigan State. The day will come when he batters the other teams' passers. For reserve veterans now the Cowboys have Larry Cole and Bill Gregory on the line.

The linebacking was reshuffled last year and became a cohesive unit which should improve. Two men were new starters in the Super Bowl season. Bob Breunig moved into the middle, where Jordan had been a dynamite leader for an eternity. The tough Tom Henderson became the strongside backer with opportunist D.D. Lewis remaining on the weakside. It was Henderson, who after the Super Bowl victory over Denver, took a can of Orange Crush—and crushed it in his bare hands.

While the linebacking unit was 66.7 percent new last year, Lan-

dry was developing for the future. He has in reserve now Mike Hegman, Bruce Huther and Guy Brown.

This year the reshuffle will be done in the secondary, at cornerback. At safety, Cliff Harris and

## 1977 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Herrera, 93 points on 38 XP, 18 field goals	2nd
<b>RUSHING</b> —Dorsett, 208 carries for 1007 yds., 4.8 Avg., 12 TDs	4th
<b>PASSING</b> —Staubach, 210 of 361 attempts for 2620 yds., 18 TDs	1st
<b>RECEIVING</b> —D. Pearson, 48 receptions for 870 yds., 18.1 Avg., 2 TDs	3rd
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Harris, 5 for 7 yds., 1.4 Avg.	14th
<b>PUNTING</b> —D. White, 80 punts, 39.6 Avg., longest 57 yds.	8th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Johnson, 50 for 423 yds., 8.5 Avg.	7th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Johnson, 22 for 536 yds., 24.4 Avg.	5th

## Pre-season Games

Aug. 5	SAN FRANCISCO (N)
12	AT DENVER 7 pm
19	HOUSTON (N)
26	PITTSBURGH (N)

## 1978 SCHEDULE

		1977 Scores
Sept.	4 BALTIMORE (N)	—
	10 AT N.Y. Giants	24-10
	17 AT Los Angeles	—
	24 ST. LOUIS 3 pm	17-24
Oct.	2 AT Washington (N)	14-7
	8 N.Y. GIANTS	41-21
	15 AT St. Louis	30-24
	22 PHILADELPHIA	24-14
	26 MINNESOTA (N)	16-10
Nov.	5 AT Miami 3 pm	—
	12 Green Bay (Mil)	—
	19 NEW ORLEANS	—
	23 WASHINGTON	34-16
Dec.	3 NEW ENGLAND 3 pm	—
	10 AT Philadelphia	16-10
	17 AT N.Y. Jets	—

## COWBOYS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
31	Barnes, Benny	CB	6-1	195	26	7	Stanford
53	Breunig, Bob	LB	6-2	227	24	4	Arizona St.
36	Brinson, Larry	RB	6-0	214	23	2	Florida
59	Brown, Guy	LB	6-4	215	22	2	Houston
18	Carano, Glenn	QB	6-3	195	22	2	Las Vegas
63	Cole, Larry	DT-DE	6-5	260	31	11	Hawaii
61	Cooper, Jim	T-G	6-5	252	22	2	Temple
21	Dennison, Doug	RB	6-0	204	26	5	Kutztown
67	Donovan, Pat	T	6-4	255	24	4	Stanford
33	Dorsett, Tony	RB	5-11	192	23	2	Pittsburgh
89	Dupree, Billy J.	TE	6-4	226	27	6	Mich. St.
76	Eldson, Jim	T-G	6-3	257	23	2	Miss. St.
62	Fitzgerald, John	C	6-5	260	29	8	Boston Col.
71	Frederick, Andy	T	6-6	241	23	2	New Mexico
77	Gregory, Bill	DT	6-5	260	28	8	Wisconsin
43	Harris, Cliff	S	6-1	192	29	9	Quachita
58	Hegman, Mike	LB	6-1	225	24	3	Tenn. St.
56	Henderson, T.	LB	6-2	220	24	4	Langston
1	Herrera, Efren	K	5-9	190	26	4	UCLA
81	Howard, Percy	WR	6-4	210	25	2	Austin Peay
80	Hill, Tony	WR	6-2	196	21	2	Stanford
42	Hughes, Randy	S	6-4	208	24	4	Oklahoma
57	Huther, Bruce	LB	6-1	217	23	2	N. Hampshire
86	Johnson, Butch	WR	6-1	191	23	3	Riverside
72	Jones, Ed	DE	6-9	265	26	5	Tenn. St.
25	Kyle, Aaron	CB	5-10	185	23	3	Wyoming
35	Laidlaw, Scott	RB	6-0	205	24	4	Stanford
66	Lawless, Burton	G	6-4	250	24	4	Florida
50	Lewis, D. D.	LB	6-1	215	32	10	Miss. St.
79	Martin, Harvey	DE	6-5	252	27	6	E. Tex. St.
44	Newhouse, R.	RB	5-10	205	27	7	Houston
88	Pearson, Drew	WR	6-0	183	26	6	Tulsa
26	Pearson, P.	RB	6-1	206	32	12	Illinois
60	Peters, Greg	T	6-5	257	22	1	California
75	Pugh, Jethro	DT	6-6	250	33	15	Eliz. City
64	Rafferty, Tom	G-C	6-3	250	23	3	Penn. St.
83	Richards, G.	WR	6-0	180	27	6	Hawaii
87	Saldi, Jay	TE	6-3	224	23	3	So. Carolina
78	Schaum, Greg	DT	6-4	245	23	2	Mich. St.
	Scott, Freddie	WR	6-2	180	23	3	Amherst
68	Scott, Herbert	G	6-2	250	24	4	Va. Union
65	Stalls, D.	DT-DE	6-4	236	22	2	North. Colo.
12	Staubach, R.	QB	6-3	202	35	10	Navy
46	Washington, M.	CB	5-11	187	30	9	Morgan St.
41	Waters, Charlie	S	6-2	198	29	9	Clemson
11	White, Danny	QB-P	6-2	192	25	3	Arizona St.
54	White, Randy	DT	6-4	245	24	4	Maryland
70	Wright, Rayfield	T	6-6	260	32	12	Fort Bailey
30	Young, Charles	RB	6-1	220	25	4	N.C. State

## DRAFTED

Round	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	Bethea, Larry	DL	6-5	258	21
2	Christensen, T.	RB	6-3	224	21
3	Hudgens, Dave	OL	6-5	245	22
4	Blackwell, Alois	RB	5-11	194	23
5	Rosen, Rich	G	6-3	242	21
6	Randolph, Harold	L	6-1	191	21
7	Randall, Tom	DT	6-5	248	21
8	Butler, Homer	WR	6-1	184	20
9	Williams, Russ	DB	6-1	197	21
10	Tomasetti, Barry	OL	6-3	249	20
11	Thurman, Dennis	S	5-11	172	21
12	Washburn, Lee	OL	6-6	253	21

# WASHINGTON REDSKINS

## PREDICTION 2nd

It was like a CIA caper. But that is how the Redskins operated when George Allen was in charge — Washington behind closed doors.

At midyear, from the sylvan security compound out in Virginia word was leaked—George Allen wished to defect. Top espionage agents from both sides swung into gear. The word spread about the National Football League. Where would the defector go?

There was a report on a television show he would be defecting to Detroit. George Allen in Detroit? Incredulous. Not his type of operation.

Another report, perhaps flamed by KGB, hinted that George Allen would be going to Buffalo. Buffalo, after all, is the American Siberia. George Allen in Buffalo? Perhaps. More possible than Detroit.

A spy quoted a man named Carroll Rosenbloom in Los Angeles in November: "Boy, would I like to have a coach like George Allen." Rosenbloom, a capitalist, would neither confirm nor deny the report, started perhaps in Uganda by foes of the regime. George Allen in Los Angeles. Totally impossible. Never could he operate on the same wavelength as Carroll Rosenbloom.

At the midway in Virginia, behind the patrolled fences, George Allen continued at training the Redskins for their weekly wars. He maintained his solid diet of vanilla ice cream, cheered Rah-Rah, and eulogized the spirit of his Over-the-Hill Gang. And he successfully kept Billy Kilmer and Joe Theismann from grappling at each other's jugular.

George Allen was in operation as normal. Which elsewhere would be abnormal. He did not admit that he wanted to defect. He maintained a rigid silence. But the word spread more and more, like a slick of

oil on the ocean. And inside George Allen must have smiled, or at least smirked. It was suspected that the originator of the defection reports was, of course, George Allen himself. The sly devil.

While continuing his operations amid the spreading of the defection stories, George Allen coached the Redskins to another 9-5 season. It was the seventh winning season out of seven years in Washington. But the Redskins, on the final day, did miss the playoffs, only the second time while Allen headed the operation. The team that made the playoffs, in the Redskins' place, was the Chicago Bears.

The Chicago Bears happened to be coached by one Jack Pardee, once a linebacking operative of Allen's. Pardee might even be called a disciple of Allen. Once the Bears were finished with their commitment in the playoffs, word was passed through certain circles that Jack Pardee wished

**JACK PARDEE, Coach.**

**Assistants: John Hilton, Joe Walton, Richie Petitbon, Bob Bowser, Ray Callahan, George Dickson, Richard "Doc" Urich.**

to defect. There were things that displeased him and he acknowledged he would be willing to defect from the Bears.

In dark corners, high-level talks were conducted in top secret. Perhaps men arrived in false mustaches and wigs with attache cases chained to their wrists for the discussions. A month after the season a swap, more or less, was negotiated.

Jack Pardee went to Washington—and into the secure hills of Virginia—to replace George Allen.

A week later George Allen, ice cream cone in hand, alighted in Los Angeles at the behest of Carroll Rosenbloom. Allen agreed to switch his clandestine operation West.

The defections had been arranged—and like men on a chess board, other operatives wound up with new operations.

The NFL's Operation Big Switch ultimately touched 10 cities.

Pardee, at 42, is a rising light

BILLY KILMER being clobbered by Dallas Cowboys' HARVEY MARTIN (79) and JETHRO PUGH in Hall of Fame photo by Phil Huber of Dallas Times.







RON McDOLLE (79), grabbing Buffalo's ROLAND HOOKS, is 18-year veteran.

among coaches. In Washington, his players, the relics Allen collected, are not much younger than he is. Like Allen, has has some Rah-Rah to him.

"I have no prejudice towards age, just towards bad football players," said Pardee, who had been a good one not long ago in the Over-The-Hill Gang. "This won't be the first time I have coached with some people I've played with. We're all in this thing together.

"They're not working for me; we're working together to have a team. As long as I perform and do my job, that's all that is expected of them."

Some of George Allen's old rhetoric is evident in that sermon.

Of course, Allen left Pardee bereft of decent draft choices.

This year the Redskins' choices in the first six rounds had been dealt away by Allen. The second and third round choices, in true CIA style, had been traded to

Los Angeles, where the beneficiary just happened to be George Allen.

"I don't think we're that many players away from having a very good squad right now," Pardee said. He talks also of player turnover and the need to be better than last year's just-miss team.

The improvement must be in the offense, an area Allen tended to neglect despite his multiple additions of fossil veterans. Both the rushing and the passing were below mediocre last year.

The quarterback situation is interesting.

Billy Kilmer, with his wobbly passes and his uncanny knack of winning ball games, was Allen's favorite. Kilmer will be 39 when the season starts. At times Joe Theismann has started. But he has not yet supplied the electric impulse expected of him.

"I think we have two good quarterbacks, which is what it takes to win," Pardee said. But then he adds, "we'll also be look-

ing for additional help at quarterback, hopeful, someone who could do extra things for the team."

By Pardee's admission he was happy with neither Kilmer nor Theismann.

The receiving is a bit threadbare, partially because of the retirement of all-time receiving champion Charley Taylor. But Taylor has not contributed much over the past few years. Frank Grant has and is the Redskins' top receiver with Danny Buggs on the other side. The other receiver could be Brian Fryer.

The Redskins are strong at tight end with Jean Fugett playing regularly, catching lots of passes, plenty for touchdowns. They added vets Jim Mandich and Tom Mitchell.

Allen relished gathering Thousand-Yard Runners, like some dilettantes collect fine paintings. He had four of these Thousand-Yarders last year. But Larry Brown retired, John Riggins got hurt and Calvin Hill was seldom used. Only Mike Thomas did much of anything, and he was hurt and was held to 806 yards.

Pardee is something of a connoisseur of fine running himself, having coached Walter Payton in Chicago. So the new coach envisions running 1977-Thousand Yarder Thomas with 1975-Thousand Yarder Riggins in tandem.

MIKE THOMAS led the Redskin rushers with 806 yards last season.





JEAN FUGETT was Washington's top receiver with 36 catches in 1977.

Because of the injuries last year, Clarence Harmon, an obscure back, started often and now has experience. The Skins also have the aging Hill, traveled Tommy Reamon and pickup Jeff Kinney. And to this fading collection, when he finally had a draft choice in the sixth round, Pardee picked Tony Green, out of Florida.

"I think our offensive line has got to be a big improvement from last year," Pardee said. He felt the protection last year was rotten, which it was with 52 sacks of the QBs. And the run blocking was less efficient. Last year's starters return: Tim Stokes and George Starke at tackles, Ron Saul and Terry Hermeling at guards, Len Hauss at center. In reserve are such as Bob Kuziel, Ted Fritsch, Dan Nugent and Curtis Akins.

The defense is characteristically old and nasty. Last year the Redskins allowed 189 points, a 14-game record for the club. Clearly, the defense saved the Skins' skin often.

The rush line is savvy and dedicated. Ron McDole is starting his 18th season at age 39, playing with the enthusiasm of a kid. Dennis Johnson, backed by Karl Lorsch, supply toughness at the other end. Diron Talbert loves the action at tackle. The other tackle is shared by Dave Butz and Bill Brundige. Pardee

also has Duncan McColl, Perry Brooks and newcomer from Cincinnati, Coy Bacon.

Linebacking is excellent with Chris Hanburger, back from an injury season, leading the group from the outside. Brad Dusek plays very ruggedly at the other side and Harold McLinton has a nasty streak in the middle. In reserve is Mike Curtis, the former All-Pro who likes to mix it up. There also are Rusty Tillman and Pete Wysocki among the better reserves.

But the defensive backfield has started to slip. The corners probably will be Joe Lavendar and Lamar Parrish. But Pat Fischer, hurt last year, could reclaim the starting spot he held for ages. The safety pair is outstanding—Ken Houston on the strong side, Jake Scott brilliant as the free safety. Eddie Brown, the kick-return ace, fills in as a backup safety with Gerard Williams as reserve cornerback.

George Allen always went ape on the kicking game—and so does disciple Pardee. He has the two top kickers in the conference. Mark Moseley led the NFL with

21 field goals last year and was perfect on extra points and kicked his kickoffs better than most. Mike Bragg had a decent average, but his special strength was 29 punts placed inside the opposition's 20. In addition, there is the fleet Brown for returns plus a record of six field goals and two punts blocked last year.

George Allen may have defected in the weird, CIA-style plot. But Washington will get a lot of the same from Jack Pardee—including the closed doors.

#### REDSKINS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs.	College
79	Bacon, Coy	DE	6-4	265	34	10	Jackson St.
4	Bragg, Mike	P	5-11	186	31	11	Richmond
25	Brown, Eddie	S	5-11	190	25	5	Tennessee
77	Brundige, Bill	DT	6-5	270	29	9	Colorado
88	Buggs, Danny	WR	6-2	185	24	4	West Va.
65	Butz, Dave	DE	6-7	285	27	6	Purdue
	Campbell, Tom	CB	6-1	188	27	2	Iowa St.
32	Curtis, Mike	LB	6-2	232	34	14	Duke
59	Dusek, Brad	LB	6-2	214	27	5	Texas A&M
37	Fischer, Pat	CB	5-9	170	37	18	Nebraska
66	Fritsch, Ted	C	6-2	242	27	7	St. Norbert
85	Fryer, Brian	WR	6-1	185	24	2	Edmonton
84	Fugett, Jean	TE	6-4	230	26	7	Amherst
46	Grant, Frank	WR	5-11	181	27	6	So. Colorado
40	Hall, Windian	S	5-11	175	27	7	Arizona St.
55	Hanburger, C.	LB	6-2	218	36	14	No. Carolina
38	Harmon, C.	RB	5-11	180	22	2	Miss. St.
51	Harris, Joe	LB	6-1	225	25	2	Ga. Tech
	Hartle, Greg	LB	6-2	225	26	4	Newberry
56	Hauss, Len	C	6-2	235	35	15	Georgia
75	Hermeling, Terry	G	6-5	255	31	9	Reno
82	Hickman, D.	DE	6-6	235	25	3	California
35	Hill, Calvin	RB	6-4	227	30	9	Yale
27	Houston, Ken	S	6-3	198	33	12	Pr. View
61	Johnson, Dennis	DE	6-4	265	26	5	Delaware
17	Kilmer, Billy	QB	6-0	204	38	16	UCLA
	Kinney, Jeff	RB	6-2	215	28	6	Nebraska
54	Kuziel, Bob	C-T	6-5	255	27	4	Pittsburgh
20	Lavender, Joe	CB	6-4	190	28	6	S. Diego St.
	Lee, Walker	WR	6-0	178	21	1	No. Carolina
	Lefear, Billy	WR	5-11	190	27	5	Henderson
71	Lorch, Karl	DE	6-3	258	27	3	So. Calif.
79	McDole, Ron	DE	6-4	265	38	18	Nebraska
	McGraw, Mike	LB	6-2	225	24	2	Wyoming
53	McLinton, H.	LB	6-2	235	30	10	Southern
	Mitchell, Tom	TE	6-3	215	33	12	Bucknell
3	Moseley, Mark	K	6-0	205	29	7	S.F. Austin
36	Moss, Eddie	RB	6-0	225	29	5	S.E. Mo.
29	Murphy, Mark	S	6-4	210	22	2	Colgate
	Nash, Charlie	WR	5-10	172	23	1	Arizona
52	Nugent, Dan	G	6-3	250	24	3	Auburn
57	O'Dell, Stu	LB	6-1	220	26	5	Indiana
20	Parrish, Lamar	CB	5-10	183	29	8	Lincoln
	Parrish, Scott	T	6-6	275	24	2	Utah St.
	Reamon, Tommy	RB	5-10	182	25	2	Missouri
44	Riggins, John	RB	6-2	230	28	8	Kansas
	Rodgers, Chuck	CB	5-11	185	23	1	N. Dak. St.
	Rodgers, Glover	TE	6-3	220	23	1	Iowa St.
	Russ, Carl	LB	6-2	227	24	4	Michigan
64	Saul, Ron	G	6-3	254	29	9	Michigan St.
13	Scott, Jake	S	6-0	188	32	9	Georgia
74	Starke, George	T	6-5	250	29	6	Columbia
76	Stokes, Tim	T	6-5	252	27	5	Oregon
72	Talbert, Diron	DE	6-5	255	33	12	Texas
	Theismann, Joe	QB	6-0	190	28	5	Notre Dame
22	Thomas, Mike	RB	5-11	190	24	4	Las Vegas
67	Tillman, Rusty	LB	6-2	230	29	9	No. Arizona
	Weatherly, Jim	C	6-3	250	25	2	No college
	Wester, Curtis	G	6-3	250	26	1	E. Tex. St.
45	Williams, Gerard	CB	6-1	184	25	3	Langston
70	Wynn, Will	DE	6-4	245	28	5	Tenn. St.
50	Wysocki, Pete	LB	6-2	225	29	4	West. Mich.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Moseley, 82 points on 19 XP, 21 field goals	4th
<b>RUSHING</b> —Thomas, 228 carries for 806 yds., 3.5 Avg., 3 TDs	8th
<b>PASSING</b> —Kilmer, 99 of 201 attempts for 1187 yds., 8 TDs	6th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Fugett, 36 receptions for 631 yds., 17.5 Avg., 5 TDs	15th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Houston, 5 for 69 yds., 00.0 Avg.	11th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Bragg, 91 punts, 38.5 Avg., longest 56 yds.	9th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Brown, 57 for 452 yds., 7.9 Avg.	8th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Brown, 34 for 852 yds., 25.1 Avg.	3rd

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 5 AT Minnesota (N)
11 GREEN BAY (N)
18 AT Baltimore (N)
25 ATLANTA (N)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 AT New England
10 PHILADELPHIA
17 AT St. Louis
24 N.Y. JETS
Oct. 2 DALLAS (N)
8 AT Detroit
15 AT Philadelphia
22 AT N.Y. Giants
29 SAN FRANCISCO
Nov. 6 AT Baltimore (N)
12 N.Y. GIANTS
19 ST. LOUIS
23 AT Dallas
Dec. 3 MIAMI
10 AT Atlanta
16 CHICAGO

#### 1977 Scores

23-17
26-20
7-14
17-14
17-20
3-10
6-17
24-14
16-34
10-6
—

#### DRAFTTEES

Round	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
6	Green, Tony	RB	5-9	185	21
8	Hover, Don	LB	6-2	222	22
9	Hurley, John	QB	6-3	205	22
10	Hertenstein, S.	DE	6-3	245	22
11	Williams, Mike	CB	5-10	180	22
12	McCabe, Steve	G	6-4	250	21

#### ROOKIES

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
	Allen, Dwight	WR	6-0	185	23	B.-Cookman
	Ellis, Tim	QB	6-3	200	21	Mississippi
	Franklin, Larry	WR	6-1	184	22	Jackson St.
	Jones, Duane	RB	6-2	205	22	Miss. Valley
	Seibolt, Bill	DT	6-4	260	22	Boston Col.
	Smith, John T.	S	6-2	180	22	N. Tex. St.
	Tormey, Chris	LB	6-3	230	22	Idaho
	Wilson, Steve	WR	5-11	170	23	Angelo St.
	Yeates, Mike	G	6-1	242	22	Maryland



# ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

## PREDICTION 3rd

**C**an Bud Wilkinson do it with the Cardinals without Chris Schenkel at his knee?

Fifteen years since he had a coach's whistle around his neck, at age 62, Wilkinson is supposed to stop the comic-opera laughter in St. Louis. This is the team that dressed in party hats and baggy pants and played the three-ring circus. Wilkinson arrived like the guy shot out of the cannon.

Since he last coached at Oklahoma with superb success, Bud kept busy by analyzing plays in a bland manner for ABC-TV; dabbled in politics and government and unsuccessfully ran for the U.S. Senate; and lastly prepared for the advancement to pro football as an administrator of a public employes benefit service company.

At an age when most mortals are contemplating retirement in a villa on the Riviera, Wilkinson went to work for Bill Bidwell, the ringmaster at St. Louis. He came dripping the beauteous cliches of his oldtime profession.

"Some people call football a

contact sport," said Bud, stealing a thought from Duffy Daugherty. "I call it a collision sport—there is a difference. You have to be somebody who enjoys that part of the sport to play the game and that hasn't changed much. I would assume that it's easier to motivate with a dollar sign than an ideal, although I believe we'll have idealism as well as dollar signs."

Maybe idealism more than dollar signs.

The dollar signs were among the the chief quibbles of the playing Cardinals.

Terry Metcalf, the Cardinals' most dangerous runner and biggest star, could not get sufficient money out of Bidwell. One of 12 Cardinals who played out their options in the last disastrous season, he jumped to Canada for barrels of deflated Canadian cash.

Ike Harris, unable to persuade Bidwell to pay him better, was dealt away to New Orleans.

Conrad Dobler, the best known offensive lineman because of his notorious image, balked at his salary, begged for renegotiation, and was traded down the Missis-

**BUD WILKINSON, Coach.**

**Assistants: Jim Hanifan, Harry Gilmer, Jerry Thompson, Tom Bettis, Pete Elliott, Rudy Feldman, Fred Glick.**

sippi also to the Saints.

"I think they're having a going-out-of-business sale in St. Louis," the menacing Dobler said in a farewell speech.

Oodles of other Cardinals did remain, though, unhappy about what they claimed were nig-gardly paychecks.

In parting, Don Coryell, who had built the Cardinals to respectability in his five coaching seasons, declared ominously: "You can't have people mad about how much money they've been paid and expect them to do their best."

It is a public fact that the Cardinals did not do their best last year. They were 7-7 after three excellent seasons, two of them as Eastern titlists. The Cardinals completed the 1977 season with four straight losses, finishing with a flourish by prat-falling to Tampa Bay.

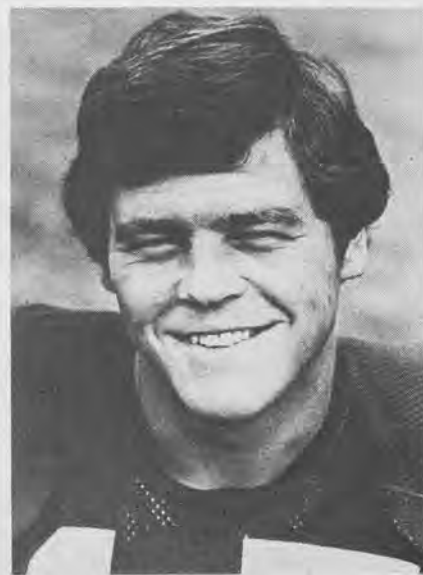
By that time Coryell and Bidwell were at loggerheads.

At issue was Coryell's belief that a coach should have a hand in selecting the personnel which plays for him. He griped publicly.

"Coaches should have a say in



STEVE JONES (no. 34, left) and JIM HART (below) are among the St. Louis Cardinals' best offensive producers.





BOB YOUNG (64) is battling to succeed Conrad Dobler on Cardinals' line.

who they coach," Coryell said, "because if a team doesn't win, it's the coach who gets fired."

Coryell's complaint was rotten drafts in which he had no say.

The Cardinals might have been able to go to the Super Bowl in 1976 if they had been better on defense. So at the 1977 draft their primary objective should have been players to keep others from making first downs. Instead, the Cardinals—with Coryell forbidden to supply the input—went for quarterback Steve Pisarkiewicz and runner George Franklin as their top two choices. Neither one got onto the field during a game last year. And the Cardinals' defense remained just as beatable as before.

Indeed, the lousy drafting went back for years. Only two of their first round picks in the decade of the 1970's is a starter—J.V. Cain and Mike Dawson.

So Coryell had cause to gripe. "We have such a limited budget the trend is obvious," he said. "Next season we'll win four games, the year after we'll win two. Not more than two of our

defensive players could start for the New York Giants."

As the club lost its final four games, it became obvious that Coryell would not remain in St. Louis. He had three years left on his contract, but his comments made the situation too embattled. He and Bidwell stopped speaking to each other. There was to be a harmony meeting, but Coryell called up from the airport on his way out of town. He said he was going to Los Angeles to be interviewed for the Rams' job.

"I didn't wish him bon voyage," said Bidwell.

Instead, Bidwell called the locksmith and had the locks to the Cardinals' offices changed. Coryell's keys didn't work any more. This is an old trick of Bidwell's. He changes locks every time he changes coaches.

It was announced Coryell and Bidwell parted by mutual agreement.

And so Bud Wilkinson entered pro football. He had a key that fit the front door, even if his long absence from the game made him a curious choice.

To be honest, Wilkinson's did did have impeccable credentials for pro coaching when he got out of the business 15 years ago. His Oklahoma teams were the best in the nation. Three times they won national championships. Four times they were unbeaten. There was the unequalled 47-game winning streak.

All this could have made him a logical choice for the pros in 1963. But he went to ABC where his cant commentaries sound now like the cliché-laden statements he is making as a 65-year-old NFL rookie coach.

To wit:

"The intensity of the moment and the challenge of the next victory are something I want again. I've missed the thrills and fun of coaching."

"The mission of any coach is to help any player develop his skills to the highest, highest maximum. My first job is to convince the Cardinals that our system will win."

"I have no illusions about how tough this league is. All we can do is try and do our best."

"The fundamentals of the game remain the same. I don't think the good athlete has ever changed. My job is to maximize the talent of every player."

"Second place is something no one remembers."

"Our commitment is to excellence."

And so on.

Wilkinson's first task is snapping the Cardinals from their dissension problems. The club must clear its cheapskate and circus image.

There is talent on this club. The offense has been especially productive through the years. But the departures of Metcalf and Dobler will deprive the Cardinals of some productivity.

"This group has split victories with Dallas four straight seasons," said Wilkinson, making a strong point.

At quarterback, the Cardinals have the canny Jim Hart back. He can throw the touchdown bomb—but he continues to be interception prone. It could be Wilkinson now will start to work in Pisarkiewicz in a quarterback of the future role.





DAN DIERDORF (left), is an All-Pro offensive tackle; MEL GRAY (center) has caught at least one pass in 58 straight games, and TOM BANKS (right) has been the St. Louis Cardinal's reliable center for the past five seasons.

There is the explosive quality because Hart throws to the fleet, maneuverable Mel Gray. But the loss of Harris—and his 40 catches—will be damaging. Pat Tilley is designated as the other wide receiver. There is no depth. Cain is outstanding at tight end.

Metcalf is irreplaceable at running back. He is a runner of Thousand-Yard capabilities. The Cardinals did pay up to keep Jim Otis from jumping to another team. With him, the Cardinals have Wayne Morris, an outstanding back. There also is Jerry Latin with experience and Franklin returns after a knee injury which incapacitated him for his entire rookie season. Down close the Cardinals have Steve Jones to plunge the ball into the end zone.

The offensive line has been a proud group in St. Louis. Annually it ranks best in pass protection for the NFC. Last year the St. Louis quarterbacks went under only 15 times.

The departure of the infamous Dobler hurts this feature of the Cardinals. But the club still has center Tom Banks and tackle Dan Dierdorf, both All-Pro. Roger Finnie plays the other tackle. Keith Wortman, who has started some, Terry Stieve and Bob Young, a 280-pounder are battling to succeed Dobler. Stieve came from the Saints in the deal for Dobler and Harris.

In the same trade the Cardinals got Bob Pollard to help the threadbare defense.

Wilkinson was an originator of the three-man defensive line in his Oklahoma defense. The Car-

dinals will employ both the 3-4, pro football's newest gimmick defense, and the traditional four man front.

On the pass rush the Cardinals have Pollard, Ron Yankowski, John Zook and Bob Bell outside and Charlie Davis and Dawson inside. The rush needs to be improved.

For their four linebacker defense, the Cardinals have bodies in abundance. They need more talent, though. Returning starters are Mark Arneson, Tim Kear-

#### 1977 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Bakken, 56 points on 23 XP, 10 field goals	8th
<b>RUSHING</b> —Metcalf, 149 carries for 739 yds., 5.0 Avg., 4 TDs	10th
<b>PASSING</b> —Hart, 185 of 354 attempts for 2534 yds., 13 TDs	7th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Harris, 40 receptions for 547 yds., 13.7 Avg., 3 TDs	9th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Wehrli, 5 for 44 yds., 8.8 Avg.	13th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Carrell, 63 punts, 36.7 Avg., longest 56 yds.	12th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Metcalf, 14 for 108 yds., 7.7 Avg.	9th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Metcalf, 32 for 772 yds., 24.1 Avg.	7th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 5 AT Miami (N)
12 AT Chicago (N)
19 AT Green Bay (N)
26 AT Kansas City (N)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 AT Chicago
10 NEW ENGLAND
17 WASHINGTON
23 AT Dallas 3 pm
Oct. 1 AT Miami
8 BALTIMORE
15 DALLAS
22 AT N.Y. Jets
29 AT Philadelphia
Nov. 5 N.Y. GIANTS 12n
12 AT San Francisco
19 AT Washington
26 PHILADELPHIA
Dec. 3 DETROIT
10 AT N.Y. Giants
17 ATLANTA

#### 1977 Scores

16-13
—
20-26
24-17
14-55
—
24-30
—
21-17
28-0
—
14-24
21-16
—
7-27
—

ney, Eric Williams, Steve Neils and Marv Kellum. They also have veterans in Kurt Allerman, Tim Black, Rick Fenlaw and Ray White. Bet that Johnny Barefield, the second-round draft choice, breaks in as a starter.

The secondary is decent with Roger Wehrli leading from the corner. It also has Mike Sensinbaugh at free safety, the position Larry Wilson virtually invented when he played for the Cardinals. Others are Robert Giblin, Carl Allen, Perry Smith, Jeff Severson and first-round draftee Ken Greene.

Through the transition, the Cardinals did remain strange at the draft. Their first pick was a placekicker with a booming leg, Steve Little. The thing is the Cardinals had an excellent place kicker in Jim Bakken. Duane Carrell handles the punting.

That's right—and now back to you Chris.

#### CARDINALS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
27	Allen, Carl	DB	6-0	186	22	2	So. Miss.
50	Allerman, Kurt	LB	6-3	222	22	2	Penn St.
57	Arneson, Mark	LB	6-2	224	28	7	Arizona
75	Audick, Dan	G	6-3	245	23	2	Hawaii
25	Bakken, Jim	K	6-0	198	37	17	Wisconsin
54	Banks, Tom	C-G	6-2	244	29	6	Auburn
79	Bell, Bob	DE	6-4	257	29	8	Cincinnati
58	Black, Tim	LB	6-2	225	22	2	Baylor
30	Bradley, Bill	S	5-11	190	30	10	Texas
51	Braham, Tom	C	6-2	246	26	6	Oklahoma
88	Cain, J.V.	TE	6-4	221	26	5	Colorado
12	Carrell, Duane	P	5-10	185	28	5	Florida St.
26	Colbert, Randy	CB	5-9	165	23	4	Lamar
76	Davis, Charlie	DT	6-2	268	26	5	TCU
73	Dawson, Mike	DT	6-4	274	24	3	Arizona
72	Dierdorf, Dan	T	6-3	288	28	8	Michigan
10	Donckers, Bill	QB	6-1	205	26	3	S. Diego St.
59	Fenlaw, Rick	LB	6-1	200	24	1	Texas
60	Finnie, Roger	T	6-3	240	32	10	Florida A&M
44	Franklin, George	RB	6-3	226	23	1	Texas A&I
28	Giblin, Robert	S	6-1	205	25	4	Houston
85	Gray, Mel	WR	5-9	172	29	8	Missouri
17	Hart, Jim	QB	6-1	210	33	13	So. Illinois
34	Jones, Steve	RB	6-0	198	26	6	Duke
55	Kearney, Tim	LB	6-2	221	27	7	No. Michigan
59	Kellum, Marv	LB	6-2	225	25	5	Wichita St.
32	Latin, Jerry	RB	5-10	186	24	4	No. Illinois
24	Morris, Wayne	RB	6-0	208	23	3	SMU
53	Neils, Steve	LB	6-2	218	26	5	Minnesota
38	Nelson, Lee	CB	5-10	185	23	3	Florida St.
65	Oates, Brad	T	6-6	274	24	3	Brig. Young
35	Otis, Jim	RB	6-0	226	29	9	Ohio St.
15	Pisarkiewicz, S.	QB	6-2	205	24	2	Missouri
82	Pollard, Bob	DE	6-3	251	29	8	Weber St.
20	Sensinbaugh, Mike	S	5-11	190	28	7	Ohio St.
46	Severson, Jeff	CB-S	6-1	185	28	7	Long Beach
42	Smith, Perry	CB	6-0	190	26	6	Colorado St.
68	Stieve, Terry	G	6-2	245	23	3	Wisconsin
23	Stone, Ken	DB-WR	6-1	180	27	6	Vanderbilt
83	Tilley, Pat	WR	5-10	171	24	3	La. Tech
22	Wehrli, Roger	CB	6-0	193	30	10	Missouri
55	White, Ray	LB	6-2	220	28	5	Syracuse
55	Williams, Eric	LB	6-2	217	22	2	So. Calif.
62	Wortman, Keith	G	6-2	262	27	7	Nebraska
78	Yankowski, Ron	DE	6-5	258	31	8	Kansas St.
64	Young, Bob	G	6-1	279	35	13	How. Payne
63	Zook, John	DE	6-5	254	30	10	Kansas

#### DRAFTES

Round		Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	Little, Steve	P-K	6-0	180	21	Arkansas
2	Green, Ken	DB	6-2	198	21	Wash. State
2	Barefield, John	LB	6-2	224	22	Texas A&I
3	Greene, Doug	DB	6-2	198	21	Texas A&I
4	Collins, George	G	6-2	248	22	Georgia
4	Childs, Jim	WR	6-2	194	21	Cal. Poly
5	Carr, Earl	RB	6-0	224	22	Florida
6	Williams, Jack	DE	6-3	248	20	Bowl. Green
7	Stief, Dave	WR	6-3	186	21	Portland St.
9	Mosley, Joe	TE	6-2	226	22	Central St.
10	Gill, Randy	LB	6-2	230	21	S. Jose St.
12	Clay, Anthony	LB	6-1	230	21	S.C. State

# NEW YORK GIANTS

## PREDICTION 4th

Where are you now Ed Danowski?

Couldn't Chuckin' Charlie Conerley come back for another hurrah?

Would Y.A. Tittle accept a draft?

Once upon a time—this was a long, long time ago—the Giants were a glory team. They won on Sunday made it to the championship game, dazzled the crowds and made themselves proud.

But now there are only memories—and the rich tradition of other eras. They started in the leather helmet age and they won and popularized the game when the goalposts were wooden, before pro football was fashionable.

But since 1963, when Tittle won a third straight division title for them, they have the enjoyment of but two winning seasons.

Now they are a financial success in the grandstands of Giants Stadium in New Jersey's reclaimed marshlands. And on the field they are woeful flops.

Their sales are remarkable, the highest number of tickets sold in the entire NFL. The fans root for a guy named Joe Pisarcik to throw the ball well enough so an-

other guy named Jimmy Robinson may catch it. It is typical of this forlorn team that both Joe Pisarcik and Jimmy Robinson joined up with the Giants as free agents.

A chart assembled by the club entitled HOW THE GIANTS WERE BUILT shows 21 of the performers on the Giants were signed the past two years as free agents.

In other words, drafting and trading are not the Giants' strengths. They have had feeble drafts and unwise trades for so long. These failures are the reasons for the Giants' continued plight.

The team of Conerley, Tittle, Ward Cuff and Tuffy Leemans, of Frank Gifford and Kyle Rote and Stout Steve Owen has become a slapdash club, its construction based on culling rejects from others.

That is not how Dallas does it nor Denver and the mighty teams of the AFC.

Last year the Giants managed to go 5-9 under the coaching guidance of John McVay, who was promoted to the head job in mid-1976. He is back, a rarity in this conference, with certain optimism. The Giants, you see,

**JOHN McVAY, Coach.**

*Assistants: John Symank, Allen Webb, Jay Fry, Bob Gibson, Joe Galat, Dick Modzelewski, Jerry Wampfler, Lindy Infanté.*

could have gone .500 last at 7-7 except for one game they lost with 20 seconds left and another with nine seconds left. Truly, the best thing about the Giants last year was their punting.

Some of the optimism is based on the hope seen in the quarterbacking of Pisarcik, a refugee from the Canadian Football League. Some more of the optimism is based on the fact that Larry Csonka ran bullishly late in the 1977 season.

This is a fragile optimism, but all clubs have it, even those built by culling, before the season starts.

The unsung Pisarcik is the quarterback in a legacy passed through the years from Danowski through Conerley, Tittle, Earl Morrall, Fran Tarkenton, Norman Snead and Craig Morton. Even quarterbacks such as Tarkenton, Morrall and Morton—Super Bowl quarterbacks for other teams—could not win in New York.

Pisarcik last year was the survivor in the quarterback battle. He outlasted a couple of veterans in camp—Steve Ramsey and Dennis Shaw, journeymen who had done little with other clubs. He outlasted another rookie,

DOUG KOTAR (44), trying to bust through Buffalo Bills' line, gained 480 yards for the New York Giants last season.





Jerry Golsteyn, who started the season but did not finish it.

So, it is that Pisarcik returns as this year's No. 1.

Meadowlands Joe has yet to become an adequate thrower. His completion record was 42.7 percent, lowest among the NFC's regulars. He threw too much to the guys on the other team. He had 14 interceptions. He had only four touchdowns.

His rival is Goldsteyn, who managed to complete 44.3 percent of his passes in the games he played. He had eight interceptions compared to two touchdown passes.

Of course, they were scrambling for their lives. The blockers let them get caught 46 times.

It would help Pisarcik, or Goldsteyn, if the Giants had some professional pass receivers. What else is Frankie Gifford doing now that he cannot pitch in and lend a hand? Thanks Howard.

The Giants talk up Jimmy Robinson, who is a bantam 5-9, and Johnny Perkins and Emory Moorehead as their receiving corps. They also have Ed Mar-

shall. Robinson was last year's catching leader—with 22.

It is no wonder cornerbacks can be seen grinning for a week before their teams play the Giants.

The returning tight end is Al Dixon, who missed half a season with hurts. Behind him is Gary Shirk, who could be the starter in 1978, and Boyd Brown. Where are you Bob Tucker? Oh shipped to Minnesota, exile for upsetting management.

At running back, the Giants try again with Csonka, hoping at last he will be as durable as he was at Miami and play nearly as well. Zonk could be a genuine New York hero—if he were not No. 3 in rushing on this team. His total was 464 yards last year. The club's rushing leader has been Bobby Hammond, with 577 last year. Hammond was, of course, signed as a free agent. There also is Doug Kotar, who had 480 yards last year. Annually Kotar is relegated to the second unit—and then the games begin and he becomes heavy duty. The Giants also came at the defenses with Willie Spencer, Larry Watkins

and Gordie Bell. Billy Taylor, the fourth draft choice should break in fast. They talk about successful football teams being talented at the skill positions. The Giants plainly, need more skill at the skill positions.

Where are you Alex Webster?

The Giants did do something that appeared to be smart at the draft. Their first choice was a blocking tackle, 10th off the board. Gordon King should be a regular immediately in New York. But then the Giants' history of highly drafted offensive linemen is in keeping with their recent events. Their veteran linemen include Gordon Gravelle, Tom Mullen, Doug Van Horn, Ralph Hill, Dick Leavitt, Mike Vaughan, Ron Mikolajczyk, Karl Chandler, Brad Benson, Bill Ellenbogen and Mike Gibbons. McVay will pick five guys to play up front.

It is claimed that the Giants could have one of the best defenses in the NFC this year. It was eighth statistically last year. Youth is a feature. Of the defensive linemen, only Jack Gregory, a fine pass rusher, has turned 30.

TROY ARCHER (77), BRAD VAN PELT (10) and JOHN MENDENHALL (64) are keys to Giants' stubborn defense.

HARRY CARSON (53) of the Giants is considered one of the best middle linebackers in National Football League.



The other starters are Troy Archer, the 1976 first draft choice, Gary Jeter, last year's first draft choice, and John Mendenhall. It is a ball-hawk defense, strong at getting to the quarterback, a better rush line than most. And for the Giants, who look for such things, the defense did hold Walter Payton to a 47-yard game last year. In reserve on the line are George Martin and J.T. Turner.

There is a true superstar in the linebacking group, Brad Van Pelt, who has been All-NFC twice. He is the strongside linebacker, a very rugged athlete who is now happy with the money being paid him in New York. Brian Kelley plays the opposite side. In the middle the Giants believe they have a rare ruby in 24-year-old Harry Carson. They say he will be the No. 1 linebacker in the NFC ere long. Reservists for the linebacking unit are Dan Lloyd, a very promising individual with a hitter's reputation, Andy Selfridge and Frank Marion.

Opposing quarterbacks and receivers also have big grins in the days before they play the Giants. The reason is the Giants finished 12th in NFC pass defense and had but 12 interceptions last year. They gave up plenty completions.

The incumbents in the secondary are cornerbacks Ray Rhodes and Bill Bryant and safeties Jim Stienke and Clyde Powers. In defense of the Giants, both cornerbacks were starters for the first time last year, Rhodes being a converted wide receiver and Bryant one of the free agent culls. So the Giants are counting on Odis McKinney, the second round draft choice, starting as a rookie, and Terry Jackson, a fifth-round choice, making the squad.

Bill Swiacki and Greg Jorgensen, 9th, 10th draft, have left—Bill to baseball, Greg to Canada.

The kicking, well, it is the pride of the Giants. Joe Danelo did a fine job on his place kicking. But any team that must punt 100 times in a season does have obvious troubles. Dave Jennings about wore out his foot punting—and still had a decent 39.9 average with accuracy to the coffin corner.

It will be years before the



BOB HAMMOND (33), signed as a free agent, was the Giants' leading rusher last season with 577 yards.

Giants become competitive.

Where are you now Tom Landry?

Yep, Smilin' Tom played for the Giants too. Once upon a time, when they were a glory team.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Danelo, 61 points on 19 XP, 14 field goals	7th
<b>RUSHING</b> —Hammond, 154 carries for 577 yds., 3.7 Avg., 3 TDs	15th
<b>PASSING</b> —Pisarcik, 108 of 241 attempts for 1346 yds., 4 TDs	13th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Name please, 22 receptions for 422 yds., 3 TDs	45th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Bryant, 3 for 54 yds., 18.0 Avg., 1 TD	32nd
<b>PUNTING</b> —Jennings, 100 punts, 39.9 Avg., longest 58 yds.	5th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Hammond, 32 for 334 yds., 10.4 Avg., 1 TD	2nd
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Hammond, 19 for 419 yds., 22.1 Avg.	14th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 7 AT Cleveland (N)	
12 NEW YORK JETS (N)	
19 PITTSBURGH (N)	
26 SAN DIEGO (5 pm)	

1978 SCHEDULE	1977 Scores
Sept. 2 AT Tampa Bay (N)	10-0
10 DALLAS	10-24
17 KANSAS CITY	—
24 SAN FRANCISCO	20-17
4 pm	
Oct. 1 AT Atlanta	3-17
8 AT Dallas	21-41
15 TAMPA BAY	—
22 WASHINGTON	20-17
29 AT New Orleans	—
Nov. 5 AT St. Louis	0-28
12 AT Washington	17-6
19 PHILADELPHIA	10-28
26 AT Buffalo	—
Dec. 3 LOS ANGELES	—
10 ST. LOUIS	27-7
17 AT Philadelphia	14-7

#### GIANTS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
10	Van Pelt, Brad	LB	6-5	235	26	5	Michigan St.
12	Golsteyn, Jerry	QB	6-4	210	23	1	No. Illinois
13	Jennings, Dave	P	6-4	205	25	4	St. Lawrence
15	Dean, Randy	QB	6-3	195	22	2	No. western
18	Danelo, Joe	K	5-9	166	24	3	Wash. St.
20	Stienke, Jim	S	5-11	182	26	5	S.W. Tex. St.
21	Bryant, Bill	CB	5-11	195	26	2	Grambling
22	Rhodes, Ray	CB	5-11	185	26	4	Tulsa
25	Bell, Gordon	RB	5-9	180	23	2	Michigan
27	Spencer, Willie	RB	6-4	235	24	2	No College
28	Reece, Beasley	CB	6-1	193	23	2	No. Tex. St.
29	Powers, Clyde	S	6-1	195	26	4	Oklahoma
30	Hart, Harold	RB	6-0	205	27	3	Texas So. ern
31	Jones, Ernie	S	6-3	180	24	2	Miami
33	Hammond, Bob	RB	5-10	170	25	2	Morgan St.
34	Mallory, Larry	S	5-11	185	25	2	Tenn. St.
39	Csonka, Larry	RB	6-3	235	30	9	Syracuse
44	Kotar, Doug	RB	5-11	205	26	4	Kentucky
53	Carson, Harry	LB	6-2	235	23	2	S.C. State
54	Lloyd, Dan	LB	6-2	225	23	2	Washington
55	Kelley, Brian	LB	6-3	222	26	5	California
57	Selfridge, Andy	LB	6-3	220	28	5	Virginia
60	Benson, Brad	G	6-3	255	21	2	Penn St.
61	Chandler, Karl	C	6-5	250	25	4	Princeton
62	Mikolajczyk, Ron	T	6-3	275	27	2	Tampa
63	Van Horn, Doug	T	6-3	245	33	11	Ohio St.
64	Mendenhall, J.	DT	6-1	255	28	6	Grambling
65	Ellenbogen, Bill	G	6-5	255	26	2	Va. Tech
68	Turner, J.T.	DT	6-3	250	24	1	Duke
70	Jeter, Gary	DT	6-4	260	22	2	So. Calif.
71	Gravelle, Gordon	T	6-5	252	28	6	Brig. Young
75	Martin, George	DE	6-4	245	24	3	Oregon
76	Pietrzak, Jim	DT	6-5	260	24	3	East. Mich.
9	Pisarcik, Joe	QB	6-3	220	25	2	New Mex. St.
77	Archer, Troy	DT	6-4	250	22	2	Colorado
79	Gibbons, Mike	T	6-4	262	26	2	S.W. Okla. St.
80	Moorehead, E.	WR	6-2	210	23	4	Oklahoma
81	Gregory, Jack	DE	6-5	250	32	11	Delta St.
83	Brown, Boyd	TE	6-4	230	25	2	Alcorn A&M
85	Robinson, Jim	WR	5-9	170	24	2	Ga. Tech
86	Perkins, John	WR	6-2	205	24	2	Ab. Christian
87	Shirk, Gary	TE	6-1	220	27	2	Morehead
89	Marshall, Ed	WR	6-5	200	29	2	Cameron St.
90	Clack, Jim	C	6-3	250	31	8	Wake Forest
91	Pough, Ernie	WR	6-1	175	25	3	Tex. So. ern

#### DRAFTTEES

Round	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	King, Gordon	OT	6-6	285	21
2	McKinney, Odis	DB	6-2	185	20
4	Taylor, Billy	RB	6-0	215	21
5	Jackson, Terry	CB	5-10	187	22
	Krahl, Jim	DT	6-5	252	21
	De Roo, Brian	WR	6-3	190	21
6	Pass, Randy	G-C	6-3	247	22
7	Doornink, Dan	RB	6-3	210	21
8	Grady, Jeff	LB	6-3	215	21
9	Swiacki, Bill	TE	6-7	225	22
10	Jorgensen, Greg	G	6-2	235	21
11	Heim, Dennis	DT	6-3	247	22
12	Lawson, Greg	RB	6-3	210	22





## ...SIT BACK, RELAX... I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU A MILLIONAIRE.

*If you can learn how to be a bad sport  
and bet my way, I'll show you how  
to steal Las Vegas blind!*

Settle back into your easy chair and start getting used to a new idea.

YOU are going to make a LOT of money.

You won't have to read a book, take a course, learn a method or memorize a system.

All you have to do is bet the way I tell you. And with a regularity that will astound and delight you, every Monday and Tuesday you will find yourself banking nice green \$50's and \$100's ... or maybe \$500's and \$1,000's.

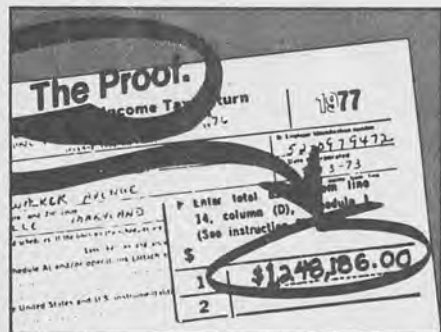
In fact, you can build yourself a fortune if you're willing to read every word of this ad with an open mind.

I'm not exaggerating. I know what I'm talking about.

My name is Mike Warren. If you know anything about thoroughbred racing, you should know who I am. If not, let me tell you.

Many people in the stable set consider me the country's Number One handicapper. I win over 60% of the time (in racing that's unheard of). I am in the money 8 days out of 10. On a weekly basis, I never lose.

To prove it, herewith is a reproduction of my IRS for 1977. Please note the gross income figure.



**\$1,248,186.00! All from picking winners.**

Okay, so what does this have to do with football?

First of all, I am neither a racing person nor a football person. I am a MONEY Person. I'll handicap a game of tiddewinks if I think I have an edge. And I don't care which side wins as long as I win.

So, much as I love football, I don't lay down dime number one till I've got that edge. And that means spade work and meticulous preparation.

People know this about me. So it's not surprising that about the time the football season cranks up I start getting calls from long time customers who feel they can tap me for a freebie.

"Say, Mike, the Las Vegas line give Oakland minus 7 over New England. Does that sound right?"

"Too many points," I say, "even on paper. The key is the 3-4 defense. It's going to give the Pats the edge. Don't forget, Houston almost beat the Raiders with the 3-4 a few weeks ago. Plus the Pats have the home advantage. The line is nutsy. I look for the Pats to win outright." (Final score: New England 48, Oakland 17)\*

Multiply that incident by a few hundred and you know why I decided this time last year to offer my selections to the public.

Accordingly I set up Mike Warren's All Pro

ing a plan that lets **everybody** get into the act... as you'll see. Meantime, you may be wondering...

**"How come he's that accurate?"**

It's no accident. There's no magic. The psychic factor is practically nil. (You've got no right playing hunches till you've done your homework.) What does it is hard work and knowing your business.

I have access to a computer. For any sport, I use a systems approach. In handicapping a horserace I want to know *everything* about a

### Our Hotline Picks. How We Did: WON 50... LOST 12... 80.6%!

#### Some Key Picks:

9/17 Ark over Ark St	10/29 N.C. over Maryland 7
9/17 Indiana over LSU	10/30 Tam Bay over S Fran
9/18 Dallas over Minn	*11/5 Syracuse over Navy
9/25 Denver over Buff	*11/6 St. Louis over Minn
9/25 Cinn over Seattle	11/12 Clemson over N.D. 8
10/1 Tenn over Oreg St	11/12 Miss St. over Miss
10/2 All over Giants	11/13 St. Lou over Dallas
10/2 Pitt over Cleve	11/25 UCLA over USC
10/8 Ala over So Calif 1	11/25 Okla over Nebr
10/8 Ky over Miss St	11/27 Seattle over S.D.
10/9 Phil over Giants	*12/3 Fla St. over Fla
10/9 Houston over Pitt	*12/4 LA over Oakland
10/15 Texas over Ark 2	*12/11 Cinn over Pitt
10/15 No. Car over N.C. St 3	12/11 Tam Bay over N.O.
10/16 Chic over Minn 4	12/11 Seattle over K.C.
10/16 Den over Oak	12/11 Tam Bay over N.O.
10/16 Dallas over Wash 5	12/11 Seattle over K.C.
10/24 Atl over Chi 6	12/18 Minn over Det 9
10/24 LA over Minn	

**NFL Playoffs:**  
6 out of 8 - 75%!

**College Bowls:**  
4 out of our 5  
Best Bets - 80%!

#### What We Said:

- 1 UPSET. Ala to win outright. "All the talk this week is how great So. Calif. is Ala has played a tougher schedule. For us Ala is the best team".
- 2 "By 15". Texas has the talent, depth and class to win a nat'l championship. Ark. will come up short."
- 3 "No. Car. by at least a touchdown."
- 4 "The Bears are for real. Minnesota is in for a long afternoon."
- 5 "By 15. Look for the Cowboys simply wear Washington down and pull off an easy win."
- 6 "We believe Atlanta will win it outright."
- 7 UPSET. "We believe the money boys are wrong. N.C. is the best team in the Atlantic Coast Conference."
- 8 Clemson almost took it outright
- 9 Won by switching our pick on learning Det. QB Landry out for game. USE THE HOTLINE!

**\*UPSET... PLUS another 6 upsets in my Best Bet and regular picks.**

Football Forecast for the '77-'78 season and tested my picks with a small group of knowledgeable bettors.

The results amazed even me:

MY BEST BETS (sent out by newsletter four days before game time) WERE 74.4% ACCURATE AGAINST THE SPREAD.

MY HOTLINE SELECTIONS picks (given by telephone the morning of the game) did 81%.

**THESE ARE THE BEST NUMBERS IN FOOTBALL.**

- We were in the money 14 weeks out of 15.
- In post season play, we got 4 out of the 5 college bowl games we hammered on.
- In NFL playoffs we got 6 out of 8.

At one point we were over 90%. A friend of mine called me up ecstatic. He had won THOUSANDS.

"Mike," he said, "you're fantastic. I've used every hotline in the business. Nobody does 90%. And they charge \$500 and \$1000."

So be it. I'm going the **other way**. I'm structur-

*\*THIS WAS '76. OF COURSE!*

horse: his breeding, his owner, trainer and jockey, his speed and class and prior consistency, the weather, the turf, etc.

Picture this approach translated into football, where we input 50 factors into every game, including power points, individual matchups, conference and divisions strength, the schedule, run pass ratio, third down efficiency, big play coefficient, proficiency against the spread, injuries, morale, weather and many other variables including even biorhythms—and you begin to understand why my 81% Hotline accuracy was no one-time fluke... and why this year we should do every bit as well... and maybe better. Yes, I assure you...

**We will clobber Vegas.** (And why not?—all they're after is a shot at your money). Here's what makes them vulnerable.

Incredibly, the Vegas line is NOT that accurate. Last year for example, their record for predicting the point differentials (the spread) between winning and losing NFL teams was: 86 right... 94 wrong... 12 ties... and 4 passes (pick 'em). That's ONLY 47.7%!

That's why Vegas offers its opening line to a private group of high rollers before the public sees it—to find out where the smart money is going so they can adjust the point spread accordingly.

However, smart money isn't always that smart. Many times the private line would have made them money where the public line lost it.

That's why I can beat the pants off Vegas. They have to adjust the line to find "the middle"—the point in the spread where, if they guess right, they make money—and if they guess wrong, they don't get hurt too badly. Consequently they have to know who's betting how much on who.

Now do you see why I said, Sit back, relax. I'm going to make you a millionaire? I actually can... if you'll let me!

- I know what I'm doing. I'm a proven Winner.
- My record last year was no fluke.
- The "system" actually favors the bettor with even a slight winning percentage provided it's consistent.
- I've got the winningest percentage in football!

The fact is, break even occurs at 52.4%. At 60% already you can quadruple your stake. At 65% you can net 27 times your original stake! You take it from there... just keep one number in mind: 81%....PROVEN!

Either way, you'll want to investigate pyramid-ing further, so I am sending you, as a bonus, your copy of my new book. It explains in detail how you can systematically snowball your starting stake—whether it's \$50 or \$1,000—into 30, 40 and even 50 times its size: "POWER PYRAMID-ING. HOW TO SCORE BIG IN FOOTBALL."



### Act Now

If you're going to pass, pass for the right reason: you don't bet or you're stone broke.

But if you bet at all... whether it's the big action or the office pool, my method is fool-proof. NO WAY can I fail to deliver at least a high enough—and consistent enough—percentage for you to SCORE BIGGER THAN YOU HAVE EVER SCORED BEFORE.

Imagine! Money to put your kids through college. To start your own business. To buy a lovely home, a new car, a boat... To establish your independence... hey, I don't have to stroke you with visions of what real money can do for you.

In fact, I don't want to. Human nature is funny... By now, 9 out of 10 readers have already turned the page. That's fine by me. Let's not kill the golden goose. Just give me a handful of smart bettors—intelligent individuals who still have the sense they were born with.

That way you and I can collect our nice, crisp new \$50's and \$100's every weekend, and by the time Vegas figures out what's going on, they won't be able to do a thing about it!

If coupon is removed, write me direct c/o Baltimore Bulletin, 23-25 Walker Ave., Baltimore, MD 21208.

### MY "50-POWER PYRAMID". How it worked last year: HOW \$80... BECAME... \$4,764!

Let's say you bet only \$20 a game on each of our Hotline games the first week and then banked one half of your first week's winnings and added the other half to your stake for the following week—and continued doing so for the rest of the season and into the post season. Here's how you would have bet... and WON... NEED I SAY MORE?

Week	Stake	Bet g Unit	W/L	Won	Lost	Net	Half	Banked
1. (9/17)	\$ 80	\$ 20	4/0	\$ 80	\$ 0	\$ 80	\$ 40	\$ 40
2. (9/24)	\$ 120	\$ 40	3/0	\$ 120	\$ 0	\$ 120	\$ 60	\$ 100
3. (10/1)	\$ 180	\$ 36	4/1	\$ 144	\$ 40	\$ 104	\$ 52	\$ 152
4. (10/8)	\$ 232	\$ 58	3/1	\$ 174	\$ 64	\$ 110	\$ 56	\$ 206
5. (10/15)	\$ 288	\$ 96	3/0	\$ 288	\$ 0	\$ 288	\$ 144	\$ 350
6. (10/22)	\$ 432	\$ 72	5/1	\$ 360	\$ 79	\$ 281	\$ 140	\$ 491
7. (10/29)	\$ 572	\$ 143	3/1	\$ 429	\$ 157	\$ 272	\$ 136	\$ 627
8. (11/5)	\$ 708	\$ 177	3/1	\$ 531	\$ 195	\$ 336	\$ 168	\$ 795
9. (11/12)	\$ 876	\$ 219	1/3	\$ 219	\$ 723	\$ 504	—	\$ 795
10. (11/19)	\$ 372	\$ 124	3/0	\$ 372	\$ 0	\$ 372	\$ 186	\$ 981
11. (11/26)	\$ 560	\$ 140	3/1	\$ 420	\$ 154	\$ 266	\$ 133	\$ 1114
12. (12/3)	\$ 695	\$ 139	4/1	\$ 556	\$ 153	\$ 403	\$ 200	\$ 1373
13. (12/10)	\$ 895	\$ 179	4/1	\$ 716	\$ 197	\$ 519	\$ 260	\$ 1631
14. (12/17)	\$ 1156	\$ 289	3/1	\$ 867	\$ 318	\$ 549	\$ 275	\$ 1908
15. (12/24)	\$ 1428	\$ 357	4/0	\$ 1428	\$ 0	\$ 1428	—	—

That's close to 60 TIMES YOUR ORIGINAL STAKE... or a winning percentage of 5.955%!

Net winning last week \$1428 stake \$1428

IMAGINE IF YOU HAD STARTED AT \$100 A GAME! TOTAL \$4,764

Me—I pay no attention to any of that. (After all, there are guys out there who bet against the Raiders because they don't like black jerseys or who bet the Browns because Uncle Louie lives in Cleveland—c'mon!) I take the position I'm the smart money.

Do you understand what I'm saying? BECAUSE VEGAS MUST RESPOND TO THE DIRECTION OF BETTING ACTION. THEY CANNOT BE AS ACCURATE AS THE SMART INDEPENDENT HANDICAPPER.

And that's why Vegas is ripe for the taking. And here's how you and I are going to do it:

**The Pyramid!** That's right. Racing gives you those juicy \$20 and \$30 horses every so often. But football is an even money proposition: bet \$100 to win \$100. So how do we make real money?... The Pyramid is the answer! Sure, in racing, where you have an 87.5% chance of losing, pyramid-ing can kill you.

But in football—where you've got an even shot—IF YOU CAN BANK ON A REASONABLY CONSISTENT WINNING PERCENTAGE, PYRAMIDING CAN MAKE YOU A FORTUNE... AND I CAN PROVE IT!

Take a look at the table above. It shows that if you have bet just \$20 on each of my 4 Hotline picks the first week of the season—that's \$80 in total—and had bet my Hotline thereafter according to my simple pyramiding procedure—YOU WOULD HAVE WOUND UP WITH \$4,764! And I can verify it.

(I explain all this in more detail in my book, which you'll get as a bonus. Read on...)

### Okay, So Are You Ready... Here's My Deal:

Like my friend said, some hotlines charge you \$500 or \$1,000 for a couple of picks a week and can't touch my 81%. I'm going to give you a whole lot more for a whole lot less because I want you as a steady customer who'll stay with me year in and year out. (You'll get your million—and it won't take that long!)

### Here is my offer:

If you're an experienced bettor (and you know I'm offering you the best deal in football):

- I will give you at least 6 selections a week for the entire 13 Week College season and the newly expanded 16 week NFL schedule. Each Wednesday I will mail you my NEWSLETTER containing my BEST BETS—selections that did 74.4% last season... Each Saturday and Sunday you will call me on my private number so I can give you my 81% accurate HOTLINE PICKS, selections where by waiting till the last minute for late breaking information WE CAN SCORE BIG.

Fee: \$100

If you're not absolutely certain (or you can't spring for the whole tab):

- I will give you the same service as outlined above, but for a two week trial period. I guarantee you at least 12 selections for that period—that's 12 chances to win back your stake and join up for the rest of the season!

Fee: \$20

Dear Mike,

You're right! I dare not turn down your offer—it makes too much sense!

- ☐ Sign me up for the two week initial period. Send me your Newsletter with your "BEST BET" picks that did 74.7% last season. Send me your telephone HOTLINE number so I can get your 81% picks, too! I promise not to share your selections with other bettors, and you have my assurance that if I win, I'll come aboard as a full time subscriber. Fee \$20.

- ☐ I don't want to run the risk of missing a week or two of selections. Enroll me now for the whole deal—Newsletter and Hotline for the full season. Fee \$100.

And please rush me my copy of "POWER PYRAMID-ING: HOW TO SCORE BIG IN FOOTBALL."

- ☐ Enclosed is my check ☐ Bill my credit card

- ☐ Visa/BankAmericard

- ☐ American Express

- ☐ Master Charge

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

make checks payable to: Baltimore Bulletin, 23-25 Walker Ave., Baltimore, MD 21208

Please do not send cash through the mails.



# PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

**DICK VERMEIL, Coach.**

*Assistants: Chuck Clausen, Dick Coury, Ken Iman, Duane Putnam, John Roland, Fred Bruney, Marion Campbell, Bill Davis, Bill McPherson.*

## PREDICTION 5th

**D**id you ever see a big guy cry? A big guy pull his red eyes through his shoulder pads and hug his coach and weep in defeat?

It is a scene too typical in the locker room of the Eagles. The Eagles lost a lot of football games, which with some good fortune, they could win. Example: They lost last year to the Lions 17-13 because of a fourth-quarter foul up. Bill Bergey, their bearded line-backer who is as talented as any player in the league at the position, made 16 tackles in that game. He is a bearded, articulate, intelligent, sensitive man of 245 pounds. He deserves better than playing for a loser.

"I cried after this one," Bergey said. "I wasn't the only one in this room who did. I cried in other years, too."

"I take a lot of pride in my football. People 300 pounds cry. They're showing a little emotion. It doesn't mean you're a baby."

So it is in Philadelphia, where only the fans have stopped crying and just boo.

"Last year we won 5 and lost 9 and four or five of those losses could easily have been wins," said Dick Vermeil, a coach who survived to work the third year on his \$800,000 contract.

The Eagles were vastly improved last year. Their pass rush became stronger, the offense more productive. And still they lost. Much more improvement is needed. But such is unlikely.

There are two reason for the treadmill of the Eagles.

1. Their 1978 schedule is a terror. Not only must they play champion Dallas and Washington in their own division. They also must combat Miami, Los Angeles, Baltimore, New England and Minnesota.

The Eagles, bluntly, are not close to becoming a competitive



RON JAWORSKI (7), Eagles quarterback, talks with Coach DICK VERMEIL.

football team yet. They don't belong in the same game with the better teams. Putting it simply, hitting the target, Vermeil said:

"It's going to be tough because we'll be playing all winning teams and we haven't beaten a winning team in the two years that I've been here."

2. This second reason is why the Eagles cannot be competitive for a while. The Eagles have not had a No. 1 draft choice since 1973. They have not had a No. 2 draft choice since 1973. The draft is the lifeblood of every pro football team but George Allen's. And the Eagles long ago bartered away their high draft choices for a smattering of veterans—including the marvelous Bill Bergey.

Or to put it graphically, the Eagles did not have a draft choice in the first two rounds this year. They had none in the first four draft rounds last year. They had none in the first three rounds in 1976. They had none through the

first six rounds in 1975. They had none in the first two rounds in 1974.

It is not the proper method to build a football team and cause it to stop crying. Compare the Philadelphia method with Dallas' stockpiling of high draft choices. Or with Denver, Oakland and all the elite of the AFC.

The Eagles do not give themselves even the chance to make mistakes at the draft board. They just wait until all the best collegians have been grabbed and then hope to be lucky and find something useful on the waiver lists.

So without the benefits enjoyed by other coaches, Vermeil does a decent job by putting together bits and pieces.

Last year's objective was to add to the touchdown production. With Ron Jaworski new at quarterback, the Eagles upped their touchdown production from 19 to an acceptable 29. They

grew from 165 points to 220. But they could win only two more games.

"We have to get up in the neighborhood of scoring 300 points," Vermeil said ambitiously. "We improved in our scoring last year but we were so bad in 1976 that there was no way to go but up."

Jaworski threw 19 touchdown passes and scored five times himself in running Vermeil's revamped offense.

In tribute to him, the coach said: "I'm convinced that it's not so much what offense you run in pro ball, it's who has his hands on the ball that makes the difference in how many points you score."

One concept Vermeil wanted to develop was that of a balanced offense—the good mix between running and passing. In '75, the Eagles were wild on the pass. Their running was atrocious. A year later the running became much better and their passing was terrible.

Enter Jaworski—and last year Vermeil had the desired balance of offense. Jaworski came over from the Rams, where he had

simmered on the bench behind a succession of athletes.

He is still a learning quarterback, though.

Behind him the Eagles do have quarterback depth with John Walton and Mike Cordova.

It is Jaworski's luck to be blessed with one of the best receivers in the league—Harold Carmichael. The 6-8 Carmichael is good for about 50 catches a year; 46 last year, including seven for touchdowns. He has caught at least one pass in his last 80 games. On the other side, the Eagles also have a fine catcher in Charlie Smith. There is depth, too, with Ken Payne and Vince Papale.

Keith Krepfle is the incumbent at tight end. His forte is blocking.

The runners who contributed to the concept of balance are a nondescript group. Their names don't ring familiar. But Mike Hogan is a good plugging fullback who'll do for four yards a carry. Herb Lusk has breakaway potential. Tom Sullivan's strength is reliability. Vermeil likes Cleveland Franklin and has nice things to say about Wilbert Montgomery, an elusive speedster. The Eagles

also have Jim Betterson. All but Sullivan are young with only two years or less of pro experience.

The offensive line does need bolstering. Jaworski went down 47 times last year, too much to sustain an effective offense.

On the line Vermeil has Stan Walters and Ed George at the tackles, Jerry Sisemore and Wade Key at the guards and Guy Morriss as center. Walter is regarded by opponents as a good blocker. In reserve, there are Dennis Franks, who could become the starting center, Donnie Green, Tom Luken.

Vermeil now uses the 3-4 defense and it worked last year. The club gave up 207 points, which is rather stingy for a team that could win only five times.

The credit goes to Bergey and to Carl Hairston, who blossomed as a pass rusher. The Eagles' pass rush got to other quarterbacks 47 times, a figure neutralized by the team's offensive line.

The big rush did enable the Eagles to have 21 interceptions—again a figure matching exactly the interceptions thrown by the offense.

Along with Hairston on the pass rush line there are Manny Sistrunk at the other outside spot and either Charlie Johnson or Lem Burnham in the middle. Burnham was a rookie at 29 last year and is described as a pass rushing specialist. They have veteran Pete Lazetich who could work in as a starter.

Bergey's playmates from linebacker are John Bunting, Frank LeMaster and Drew Mahalic. Vermeil would like to work LeMaster into an inside position, where his abilities could be better used. For this reason, the Eagles when they finally did get a draft choice picked rookie Reggie Wilkes on the third round. Wilkes is being counted upon as a starter. They also added Tom Graham from San Diego.

The fourth-round choice also was a defensive player, tackle Dennis Harrison.

The secondary, with a fine interception, record, is reliable. Herman Edwards could become a starter as a second-year cornerback. On the other side, the Eagles have John Outlaw, a veteran

LARRY MARSHALL (22) of Philadelphia led NFC in punt returns last year.





who at 33 could start to suffer from diminishing skills.

The safetymen are a strength. Randy Logan is developing into a dependable player on the strong side. Vermeil is enthusiastic about the play of John Sanders, who was new to free safety last season. "By the end of the year we felt he was playing free safety second to only about two free safeties that we played against all year."

For depth in the secondary, the Eagles have Eric Johnson, Martin Mitchell and Kevin Russell.

The special teams are something the Eagles can be proud of. Larry Marshall led the NFC in punt returns. Wilbert Montgomery led the NFC in kickoff returns.

But the place kicking was a horror to Vermeil. He tried three kickers last year and the third of these, veteran Nick Mike-Mayer, is the coach's choice for this season. Spike Jones is an in-and-out punter.

Until they start participating in the draft again, the Eagles will do a lot of boo-hooing in their locker room. Their fans will do a lot of plain booing in the stands.

BILL BERGEY is Eagles' perennial All-Pro at middle linebacker post.



HAROLD CARMICHAEL (17) has caught at least 40 passes and scored five TDs in each of past five seasons for Eagles.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

**SCORING**—Carmichael, 42 points on 7 TDs ..... T. 21st  
**RUSHING**—Hogan, 155 carries for 546 yds., 3.5 Avg. .... 17th  
**PASSING**—Jaworski, 166 of 346 attempts for 2183 yds., 18 TDs ..... 10th  
**RECEIVING**—Carmichael, 46 receptions for 665 yds., 14.5 Avg., 7 TDs 5th  
**INTERCEPTIONS**—Sanders, 6 for 122 yds., 20.3 Avg. .... 3rd  
**PUNTING**—Jones, 93 punts, 37.2 Avg., longest 68 yds. .... 10th  
**PUNT RETURNS**—Marshall, 46 for 489 yds., 10.6 Avg. .... 1st  
**KICKOFF RETURNS**—Montgomery, 23 for 619 yds., 26.9 Avg., 1 TD ..... 1st

#### Pre-season Games

July 29 Miami at Canton, O.  
 Aug. 5 N. Orleans at Mexico City  
 14 AT Houston (N)  
 19 AT Atlanta (N)  
 25 N.Y. JETS (N)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 LOS ANGELES  
 10 AT Washington  
 17 AT New Orleans  
 24 MIAMI  
 Oct. 1 AT Baltimore  
 8 AT New England  
 15 WASHINGTON  
 22 AT Dallas  
 29 ST. LOUIS  
 Nov. 5 GREEN BAY  
 12 N.Y. JETS  
 19 AT N.Y. Giants  
 26 AT ST. Louis  
 Dec. 3 AT Minnesota  
 10 DALLAS  
 17 N.Y. GIANTS

#### 1977 Scores

0-20  
 17-23  
 28-7  
 —  
 —  
 6-14  
 14-17  
 14-24  
 17-21  
 —  
 27-0  
 28-10  
 16-21  
 —  
 10-16  
 17-14

#### EAGLES' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
66	Bergey, Bill	LB	6-3	245	33	10	Arkansas St.
34	Betterson, J.	RB	6-0	210	24	2	No. Carolina
95	Bunting, John	LB	6-1	220	28	7	No. Carolina
67	Burnham, Lem	DE	6-4	240	31	2	U.S. Int.
17	Carmichael, H.	WR	6-8	225	28	8	Southern
46	Edwards, H.	CB	6-0	194	24	2	S. Diego St.
59	Ehlers, Tom	LB	6-2	218	26	4	Kentucky
30	Franklin, C.	RB	6-2	220	23	2	Baylor
53	Franks, Dennis	C	6-1	245	25	3	Michigan
64	George, Ed	T	6-4	270	32	4	Wake Forest
	Graham, Tom	LB	6-2	235	27	7	Oregon
74	Green, Don	T	6-7	261	30	8	Purdue
78	Hairston, Carl	DE	6-3	245	25	3	Mid. E-Shore
89	Henry, Wally	WR	5-8	170	23	2	UCLA
35	Hogan, Mike	P	6-2	215	23	3	Chattanooga
	Hoopes, Mitch	RB	6-1	210	25	4	Arizona
	Jaworski, Ron	QB	6-2	195	27	5	Youngstown
65	Johnson, Charlie	MG	6-3	262	26	2	Colorado
49	Johnson, Eric	S	6-1	192	26	2	Wash. State
	Jones, Spike	P	6-2	195	31	9	Georgia
72	Key, Wade	G	6-5	245	31	9	SW Tex. St.
84	Krepfle, Keith	TE	6-3	225	26	4	Iowa St.
73	Lazetic, Pete	MG	6-3	245	28	6	Stanford
55	LeMaster, Frank	LB	6-2	231	26	5	Kentucky
41	Logan, Randy	S	6-1	195	27	6	Michigan
63	Luken, Tom	G	6-3	253	28	6	Purdue
32	Lusk, Herb	RB	6-0	190	25	3	Long Beach
54	Mahalic, Drew	LB	6-4	225	25	4	Notre Dame
22	Marshall, Larry	KR	5-10	195	28	7	Maryland
	Mike-Mayer, Nick	K	5-9	187	28	6	Temple
48	Mitchell, Martin	DB	6-1	180	24	2	Tulane
31	Montgomery, W.	RB	5-10	195	24	2	Ab. Chr.
50	Morris, Guy	C	6-4	255	27	6	Texas Chr.
71	Nelson, Dennis	T	6-5	260	32	8	Illinois St.
86	Osborne, Richard	TE	6-3	230	24	3	Texas A&M
20	Outlaw, Johnny	CB	5-10	180	32	10	Jackson St.
83	Papale, Vince	WR	6-2	195	32	3	St. Joseph's
82	Payne, Ken	WR	6-2	185	27	5	Langston
57	Reed, James	LB	6-2	230	22	2	California
26	Sanders, John	S	6-1	175	27	4	So. Dakota
76	Sisemore, Jerry	G	6-4	260	27	6	Texas
79	Sistrunk, Manny	DE	6-5	275	31	9	Ark. AM&N
85	Smith, Charles	WR	6-1	185	28	5	Grambling
25	Sullivan, Tom	RB	6-0	190	28	7	Miami
58	Tautolo, Terry	LB	6-2	235	24	3	UCLA
75	Walters, Stan	T	6-6	270	30	7	Syracuse
11	Walton, John	QB	6-2	210	30	3	Eliz. City

#### DRAFTIES

Round	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
	3	Wilkes, Reggie	LB	6-4	227	21	Georgia Tech
	4	Harrison, Dennis	DE	6-8	275	21	Vanderbilt
	5	Banks, Norris	FB	6-2	210	24	Kansas
	7	Marshall, Greg	DT	6-3	255	21	Oregon St.
	9	Williams, Chas.	CB	6-1	185	24	Jackson St.
	11	Campfield, Bill	HB	5-11	189	21	Kansas
	12	Slater, Mark	C	6-1	244	23	Minnesota

# MINNESOTA VIKINGS

## PREDICTION 1st

See Bud Grant in the middle of the television screen. See Bud, the human icicle, almost smile. See him, hands stuffed into the pockets of the purple parka, the hood over his purple baseball cap, the telephone set stuck to his head like antlers. See Bud's team, the elderly and incurable, defeat the aging process. See that team keeping winning just enough. See the Vikings back in the playoffs, the 10th time in 11 years.

What keeps Bud's team there every December when Pete Rozelle starts his tournament to the Super Bowl? The answer is simple. The Bears, Lions, Packers and now the Buccaneers keep the Vikings there.

In any other division of the realm the Vikings would have little opportunity to finish first and return to the playoffs. But this is the NFC Central. It used

to be called the Black and Blue Division in reverence of its overall might. But that was a decade ago when the Vikings were young—and Bud Grant started this domination. The Vikings have this chance to win this division again this year by the usual theory. They are plainly better than all the other teams in their own group.

Grant himself explained the way this theory works in capsuling last season. It was a season in which Francis Tarkenton was laid low, carted off at midyear. It was a year in which the once proudly stubborn defense did start to feel the woes of aging. But it was a year in which the Vikings went 9-5, not spectacular, but sufficient to win the NFC Central for the ninth time in 10 years, the fifth year in succession.

Given their edge, the Vikings managed to beat the Rams in the playoffs on their special turf,

**H. P. "BUD" GRANT, Coach.**  
**Assistants: Bus Mertes, John Michels, Jerry Burns, Jocko Nelson, Murray Warmath.**

the off field. In this case it was a quagmire in the Los Angeles monsoon season.

Only then did the Vikings perish on the artificial turf at Dallas.

Listen to Bud Grant preach his wisdom:

"We've always felt that the key to a championship is the games within your division. In our case, we had them all in a row after we played Dallas (an opening game 16-10 loss to Dallas)—Tampa Bay, Detroit and Chicago. And we won them all. The way things were to go later in the season, those four straight victories were critical.

"Later on in the season, we started running into teams at the wrong time."

To put it statistically, the Vikings in the regular season were a spiffy 6-1 against the teams within the Central. That means against the rest of pro football

FRAN TARKENTON (left), BOB LEE (center) and TOMMY KRAMER comprise Vikings' outstanding quarterback crew.







JEFF SIEMON (50), veteran Vikings' LB, is a head-hunter. CHUCK FOREMAN gained 1112 yards last year for Vikings.

the Vikings were 3-4—or 4-5 including the playoffs.

To win in the Central is not to win elsewhere.

Bud speaks of wisdom, too, of his favorite ally, the rotten weather which afflicts the other teams. Like the Rams home in LA with superior personnel.

"When you deal with bad weather such as we do, I think a philosophy develops. We talk to the players about the weather. We tell them that in bad weather you can lose a game to a team that isn't as good as you are . . . or you can beat a team that is better than you are."

This is a profound man, Bud Grant.

So instead of withering away, the Vikings run dominant in their cozy division. In this way they make the playoffs every December—and four times they made the Super Bowl and lost. But at least they have been there.

Now wise Bud makes his proclamation for 1978. "We're a veteran team, but not an old team. We've got good leadership. We've got starters returning at every position. We're not revamping our entire operation."

Click—the Bears and Lions, the other Central teams with re-

mote chances of unseating the Vikings, are revamping their operations with new coaches.

It boils down to everything Bud says. But it boils down further the old standby, Francis Tarkenton. Does he come back as brilliantly effective as he was before a lineman's rush busted his ankle before? Can he scoot and holler as he once did now that he's the ripe age of 38?

The belief is he cannot play with his old-style potency, with the flair of yesteryear. His career statistics top all the quarterbacks in the history of the game. They surpass John Unitas', Bart Starr's, Joe Namath's, Roger Staubach's. But they have won Super Bowls. Francis Tarkenton never has.

But the belief also is Fran Tarkenton retains enough of the potency and flair to lead this team again to victory in this division.

Behind him there are Bob Lee and Tommy Kramer. Lee has won some—he beat the Rams—but he is classified as a roustabout, a quarterback who can be depended upon some of the time. Kramer did well enough on the absence last year. Kramer was a rookie then and he does have some experience. Likely now he

occasions he played in Francis' would play this year more regularly should Francis happen to go out again. Kramer is Tarkenton's chosen heir.

He represents the undersung youth of this club. Through the years the Vikings have drafted well to fill in when the time comes that the old players must be replaced. Such youngsters are plentiful. But most of them sit and wait on this team that has 12 of 22 expected starters at age 30 or older.

But other than at quarterback, none of the fogies are at the skill positions on offense. These are the wide receivers and runners.

Tarkenton has said he plays now with the most gifted receivers he has ever had. So true. He throws to Ahmad Rashad and Sammy White. Each is a brilliant catcher who can go deep. Rashad had 51 catches last year, White 41. White is as slick a receiver as can be found in the league, with nine touchdowns last year. For depth there is Bob Grim, Mike Jones and John Square.

Stu Voigt, the tight end, is included in Tarkenton's speech about the best group of receivers he ever had. Voigt is 30 now, a tough man. Behind him there is

Bob Tucker, an ace at catching the ball, picked up for a song last season from the Giants. The Vikings also have Steve Craig to play tight end.

Chuck Foreman, the most versatile back in the conference, leads the running game as an annual Thousand-Yard gainer. He had 1112 yards rushing last year and 38 pass catches for 308 more. He scored nine touchdowns, fewer than usual. Running with Foreman is Brent McClanahan, who has the misfortune to fumble too often. In reserve, the Vikings have Robert Miller, Sammy Johnson, Mark Keller and Manfred Moore.

Normally, the Vikings have had excellent pass protection. But the line blocking lost something last year and the quarterbacks were trapped too often, 35 times. The line is intact, but getting perhaps too old. Mick Tingelhoff, the center, is now 38, Ron Yary, the right tackle is 32, and Ed White, the right guard is 31. On the other side tackle Steve Riley and guard Charles Goodrum are in their 20s. The line lacks decent depth. Reservists are Wes Hamilton, Dennis Swilley and Doug Dumler.

"We would like to increase the number of times we sack the opposing quarterback and intercept his passes," said Bud with his wide logic.

These weapons used to be the Vikings' brand of special defense. The pass rush once upon a time was awesome. But last year the rush line got to the quarterbacks

30 times, not enough. The Vikings helped themselves to 16 interceptions, big plays as Grant calls them, and not quite enough of those.

The reason is basic. The defensive line, if it goes unaltered, averages out to almost 35 years per man. Jim Marshall is 40, close to 41 actually. Carl Eller is 36. They supply the outside rush, or the memory of it. Inside Alan Page is 33 and Doug Sutherland is the kid of the old unit at 30. But Mark Mullaney, one of those drafted, trained and waiting, is due to break in as an outside starter. And the first draft choice, Randy Holloway from Pitt, will be ready soon as he absorbs Bud's philosophies. James White and Joe Jackson back up at the defensive tackles.

The linebackers have been altered in recent years. All three now are in their maneuverable 20s. Jeff Siemon is a strength in the middle, now the linebacking elder at 28. Matt Blair and Fred McNeill are strong outside men. Wally Hilgenberg, a grand old

pro, is now a sometimes helper at 35 going on 36. Scott Studwell is a veteran reserve and third-round draftee Whip Walton is on hand to learn.

But the age again is a problem in the secondary. It is still good but not as good as five years ago. Holdover corners are Bobby Bryant, 34 and Nate Wright, 30. Paul Krause roams from free safety at 36, but had only two interceptions last year. The kid in the backfield is Jeff Wright, 29, the strong safety. Phil Wise, Nate Allen and Joe Blahak are vet reserves. John Turner, the second-round choice, is to be groomed to play cornerback.

Grant is big on good kicking. Fred Cox, the longtime place kicker, has retired with his scoring records. Richard Danmeier is his successor. Grant was unhappy with Neil Clabo's punting last year, but statistically it was among the best and he returns.

See Bud mop up on the other guys in the division. See Bud go back to the playoffs.

#### VIKINGS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
25	Allen, Nate	CB	5-11	174	29	8	Tex. So'n
21	Blahak, Joe	CB	5-10	185	27	6	Neb. St.
59	Blair, Matt	LB	6-5	229	26	5	Iowa St.
20	Bryant, Bobby	CB	6-1	170	33	10	So. Carolina
12	Clabo, Neil	P	6-2	200	25	4	Tennessee
84	Craig, Steve	TE	6-3	231	26	5	No'western
7	Danmeier, Rick	K	6-0	183	25	2	Sioux Falls
57	Dumler, Doug	C	6-3	242	27	6	Nebraska
81	Eller, Carl	DE	6-6	247	35	15	Minnesota
44	Foreman, Chuck	RB	6-2	207	27	6	Miami (Fla.)
68	Goodrum, C.	T	6-3	256	27	6	Oregon St.
26	Grim, Bob	WR	6-0	188	32	12	Florida A&M
61	Hamilton, Wes	G	6-3	255	24	3	Tulsa
45	Hannon, Tom	S	5-11	193	22	2	Mich. St.
58	Hilgenberg, W.	LB	6-3	229	35	15	Iowa
76	Jackson, Joe	DT	6-4	262	27	4	Low Mex. St.
48	Johnson, Sam	RB	6-1	226	25	5	No. Carolina
39	Keller, Mark	RB	6-0	225	25	5	No. Illinois
9	Kramer, Tommy	QB	6-1	199	22	2	Rice
22	Krause, Paul	S	6-3	205	35	15	Low
19	Lee, Bob	QB	6-2	195	31	10	Pacific
70	Marshall, Jim	DE	6-4	240	40	19	Ohio St.
33	McClanahan, B.	RB	5-10	202	27	6	Arizona St.
54	McNeill, Fred	LB	6-2	229	25	5	UCLA
35	Miller, Robert	RB	5-11	204	24	4	Kansas
36	Moore, Manfred	RB	6-0	200	27	5	So. Calif.
77	Mullaney, Mark	DE	6-6	242	24	4	Colorado St.
88	Page, Alan	DT	6-4	245	32	12	Notre Dame
28	Rashad, Ahmad	WR	6-2	200	28	6	Oregon
78	Riley, Steve	T	6-6	258	25	5	So. Calif.
50	Siemon, Jeff	LB	6-3	237	27	7	Stanford
55	Studwell, Scott	LB	6-2	224	23	2	Illinois
69	Sutherland, D.	DT	6-3	250	29	9	Superior St.
67	Swiler, Dennis	G	6-3	241	22	2	Texas A&M
10	Tarkenton, Fran	QB	6-0	185	37	18	Georgia
53	Tingelhoff, M.	C	6-2	240	37	17	Nebraska
38	Tucker, Bob	TE	6-3	230	32	9	Bloomsburg
83	Voight, Stu	TE	6-1	225	29	9	Wisconsin
62	White, Ed	G	6-3	270	30	10	California
72	White, James	DT	6-3	263	24	3	Oklahoma
85	White, Sammy	WR	5-11	189	23	3	Grambling
29	Wise, Phil	S	6-0	193	28	7	Nebraska
23	Wright, Jeff	S	5-11	190	28	8	Minnesota
43	Wright, Nate	CB	5-11	180	30	10	S. Diego St.
73	Yary, Ron	T	6-6	255	31	11	So. Calif.

#### DRAFTES

Round	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	
1	Holloway, Randy	DE	6-5	245	22	Pittsburgh
2	Turner, John	CB	6-0	199	21	Miami (Fla.)
3	Walton, Whip	LB	6-2	235	22	S. Diego St.
4	Hough, Jim	C	6-2	267	21	Utah St.
8	Wood, Mike	K	5-11	199	23	Se Mo.
9	Deutsch, Mike	P	6-1	196	23	Colorado St.
10	Shaw, Hughie	RB	5-11	186	22	Texas A&I
11	Harris, Ron	RB	5-9	190	22	Colorado St.
12	Morrow, Jeff	T	6-4	245	21	Minnesota

#### 1977 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Foreman, 54 points on 9 touchdowns	T. 9th
<b>RUSHING</b> —Foreman, 207 carries for 1112 yds., 4.1 Avg., 6 TDs	3rd
<b>PASSING</b> —Tarkenton, 155 of 258 attempts for 1734 yds., 6.72 Avg., 9 TDs	3rd
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Rashad, 51 receptions for 681 yds., 13.4 Avg., 2 TDs	1st
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Bryant, 4 for 44 yds., 11.0 Avg.	18th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Clabo, 83 punts for 39.8 Avg., longest 69 yds.	7th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Moore, 47 for 277 yds., 5.9 Avg.	15th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Moore, 24 for 524 yds., 21.8 Avg.	15th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 5	WASHINGTON (N)
12	AT Kansas City (N)
18	AT Miami (N)
26	BUFFALO (N)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

		1977 Scores
Sept. 3	AT New Orleans	—
11	DENVER (N)	—
17	TAMPA BAY	—
25	AT Chicago (N)	7-10
Oct. 1	AT Tampa Bay	9-3
8	AT Seattle	—
15	LOS ANGELES	3 pm 3-35
22	GREEN BAY	19-7
26	AT Dallas (N)	—
Nov. 5	DETROIT	14-7
12	CHICAGO	22-16
19	SAN DIEGO	—
26	AT Green Bay	13-6
Dec. 3	PHILADELPHIA	—
9	AT Detroit 4 pm	30-21
17	AT Oakland	13-35



PAUL KRAUSE of Vikings is one of NFL's all-time interception leaders.



# CHICAGO BEARS

**NEILL ARMSTRONG, Coach.**  
*Assistants: Jerry Frei, Hank Kuhlmann, Jim LaRue, Buddy Ryan, Ken Meyer, Doug Scovil.*

## PREDICTION 2nd

What is prettier on a Sunday afternoon than a sleek running back squirming toward the defense through a hole pried open by two blockers, cutting left, then right with stuttersteps, then prancing into the end zone? Then there, handing the ball to the right guard who spikes it joyously into the ground? What is prettier?

The Bears, in good and bad times of their fabled history, have been blessed by such prettiness. They have had a legacy of run-

ning backs. It dates back to Red Grange, the Galloping Ghost, and runs through the exploits of Paddy Driscoll, Bronko Nagurski, Beattie Feathers, Bill Osman-ski, George McAfee, Rick Casares and Gale Sayers.

And now there is Walter Payton. He fits this mold of what the world believes is a running back for the Chicago Bears. He is the No. 1 runner in football, the current king. Last year he ran for 1852 yards, the most in the entire NFL.

"Individual goals are not important," Walter Payton says.

"When I'm finished playing, the biggest compliment I could receive about my career would be for people to say, 'Walter Payton was a team ball player.'"

It might take Walter Payton running for 3000 yards to carry the Bears to the Super Bowl.

The king of the running backs? Well, there are other claimants.

It will be settled early. On the second Sunday of the new season. At San Francisco. It will be Walter Payton vs. O.J. Simpson.

Two guys, who protest they do not run for themselves, will be doing so that Sunday. But right now Walter Payton has the edge, going in. It was he who enacted the scenario described above, culminated with the guard spiking the touchdown ball, 14 times last year. In addition to his 14 touchdowns via ground, Payton scored two more on passes.

It is quite an offensive arsenal inherited by Neill Armstrong. Neill Armstrong is the new coach. He never walked on the moon saying "One small step for man, one giant step for mankind." But he did coach defense for Bud Grant at Minnesota. He did participate in playoffs 11 times in his 14 seasons as a player and assistant coach in the pros.

He became a head coach as part of the massive shuffle of 10 coaches in the league. When Chuck Knox went to Buffalo and George Allen went to Los Angeles, Jack Pardee went to Washington. Pardee's defection left a surprise vacancy at Chicago. The Bears, 9-5 for the season, had made it to the playoffs for the first time in 14 years. Chicago burned up with feverish excitement. The Bears were trounced in their playoff game at Dallas, 37-7. They didn't belong with Dallas. But having reached the playoffs, there were great expectations for this year. But in the wake of the playoff loss, Pardee spoke of his dissatisfaction in Chicago. He disliked the inferior practice facilities, generally complained

WALTER PAYTON ran for 1852 yards, tops in NFL in '77, and scored 16 times.





BOB AVELLINI has been Bears' starting quarterback for past two years.

about the situation, was unhappy with the dough. After much public bickering and negotiation, Pardee jumped to the Redskins as soon as the vacancy became official.

So Jim Finks, the ex-Minnesota GM who had rebuilt the Bears to respectability, went to his old team for the new coach. Armstrong's record could not be knocked.

His philosophy, well, it comes out a little bit like George Allen's. Hurry, get that defense on the field.

"I've coached for 23 years," Armstrong said. "I was drafted as an offensive player but I ended up playing defense with the Eagles. Coaching defense makes you realize what you need on offense. Walter Payton and Bob Avellini are important in the makeup of the team but it takes everyone to make a successful offense. But team defense is what wins."

Last year the Bears' offense was the third most productive in the league and the second most productive in the conference. The other teams which surpassed the

Bears' 332.5 yards per game were the Cowboys and Raiders. Winning company.

On the back of the silver dollar, Armstrong's defense—it was Pardee's then—yielded more than 300 yards per game. The defense was sixth worst in the league.

"Not many coaches inherit a 9-5 team," Armstrong did admit. "I feel fortunate and privileged."

Last season's 9-5 represented the Bears' best since 1965 and their first winning record in eight years.

They have the stuff to go on, their offense productive and now maturing. But as Armstrong was quick to say, their defense does lack title skill and consistency.

Rough-hewn Bob Avellini has been a regular quarterback only two years. Both those years he was not regarded as the No. 1 until the season started. He was less experienced than the men expected to win the job. But he won on his toughness, his desire. He is no artist. But in the style of a Bobby Layne, a Billy Kilmer, a lot of quarterbacks who were not fancy, Avellini is a winner. His record is 18 victories in 32 regular season starts.

"Avellini goes down hard but he gets up easy," said Armstrong, in the ultimate of praise. Last year he got the Bears to the playoffs, a winning achievement for a kid team.

A year ago Mike Phipps had been acquired from Cleveland to play quarterback. Phipps made cameo appearances behind Avellini in three games. This year there is no competition. Avellini is No. 1 with Phipps, a more-tested veteran, still his backup. Vince Evans is No. 3, strong-armed, but learning and a strength as a kickoff return man.

The Bears have finally gotten themselves the receivers they needed in the down years. James Scott plays wide with speed and grace. He caught 50 throws from Avellini last year. He is one of 14 free agents on the Bears' roster. Three others compete for the wide receiver spot on the other side—Brian Baschnagel, Bo Rafter and Steve Schubert. Steve Rivera also is on the roster.

The tight end is Greg Latta, who helped keep the Bears mov-



JAMES SCOTT caught 50 passes for 809 yards, 3 TDs in 1977 season.

ing to the playoffs last year with a 37-yard touchdown catch with three seconds left against Kansas City. He is, though, a better catcher than blocker. Behind Latta the Bears have Bob Moore.

With Payton in the running backfield, there is Roland Harper. They work perfectly. Harper was a last-round choice the year Payton was picked first. Last year Harper ran for a decent 457 yards on the plays he did not flatten somebody for Payton. In reserve, the Bears have Johnny Musso, Robin Earl and Art Best. They are better runners than some teams have in their starting units.

It would be folly for Walter Payton to try to run without a punishing line in front of him. He has such—and these guys enjoy spiking the football for Walter as much as he enjoys getting it to the end zone for them. Rebuilt last year, the offensive line incumbents are tackles Dennis Lick and Ted Albrecht—both first-round draft choices—guards Noah Jackson and Revie Sorey and center Dan Peiffer. Backups are Lionel Antoine, who was hurt last year, Jeff Sevy, Dan Jiggetts and





MIKE HARTENSTINE, a brawny end, is tough Chicago Bear defensive player.

BOB PARSONS is a veteran tight end and a deadly accurate passer.



Fred Dean. Antoine, too, is a onetime first-round draft choice, giving the Bears three such gems in the line blocking corps.

The defense remains needy largely because the Bears had only one draft choice this year in the first five rounds. Taken on the third round was a defensive lineman, Brad Shearer of Texas. He is an improbable starter as a rookie.

Last year's defense was porous largely because of the injury absence of Wally Chambers. Also a contractual problem, the Bears now have dealt Chambers to Tampa Bay, hardly helping Armstrong in his premise that defense is most vital in football.

The Bears have helped their outside pass rush by trading for Tommy Hart from San Francisco

and adding Walt Patulski. They combat for work with incumbents Billy Newsome and Mike Hartenstine. Jim Osborne and Ron Rydalach along with Roger Stillwell return at tackle. The Bears also have Mike Raines and Jerry Meyers.

Linebacking had been the strength of this club during all the poor seasons because Dick Butkus supplied ferocity and individual heroics. There are no such qualities any more. Returning are veteran Doug Buffone, the last of Butkus' linebacking mates, Don Rives, Jerry Muckenturm, Gary Campbell, Tom Hicks and Mel Rogers. Buffone and two others will be starters. Rives is the likely starter in the middle.

The Bears' secondary can hit like the devil and did allow the fewest touchdown passes in the league last year, a mere seven. The bashers at safety are Doug Plank and Gary Fencik. The corners are Allan Ellis and Virgil Livers. In reserve, the Bears have Craig Clemons, Terry Schmidt, Mike Spivey and Len Walter-schied.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Payton, 96 points on 16 touchdowns	1st
<b>RUSHING</b> —Payton, 339 carries for 1852 yds., 5.5 Avg., 14 TDs	1st
<b>PASSING</b> —Avellini, 154 of 293 attempts for 2004 yds., 11 TDs	9th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Scott, 50 receptions for 809 yds., 16.2 Avg., 3 TDs	2nd
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Ellis, 6 for 23 yds., 3.8 Avg.	5th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Parsons, 80 punts, 40.4 Avg., longest 58 yds.	3rd
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Schubert, 31 for 291 yds., 9.4 Avg., 1 TD	4th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Baschnagel, 23 for 557 yds., 24.2 Avg., 1 TD	6th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 5 OAKLAND (N)
12 ST. LOUIS (N)
19 AT CINCINNATI (N)
24 AT SEATTLE (N)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

		1977 Scores
Sept.	3 ST. LOUIS	13-16
	10 AT San Francisco	—
	17 AT Detroit	31-14
	25 MINNESOTA (N)	10-7
Oct.	1 OAKLAND 3 pm	—
	8 AT Green Bay	26-0
	16 AT Denver (N)	—
	22 AT Tampa Bay	10-0
	29 DETROIT	30-20
Nov.	5 SEATTLE	—
	12 AT Minnesota 3 pm	16-22
	19 ATLANTA	10-16
	26 TAMPA BAY	—
Dec.	4 AT San Diego 6 pm	—
	10 GREEN BAY	21-10
	16 AT Washington	—

#### STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

The kicking game, while grading out as passable, can perform spectaculars. Bob Parsons is an able punter. And watch out, he is a deadly passer from punt formation, a favorite play of the Bears. Parsons went four-for-four as a passer last year when the enemy thought he would kick the ball. Bob Thomas is the place-kicker, a little guy who was noted for his misses until the final nine seconds of the 1977 season. Then in overtime, his field goal beat the Giants and propelled the Bears into the playoffs.

The playoffs again are a strong possibility, as a wild card again. As long as they keep handing the ball off to Payton for runs that are so pretty.

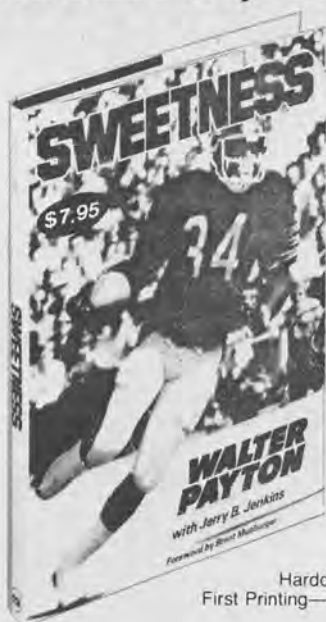
#### BEARS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
64	Albrecht, Ted	T-G	6-4	253	23	2	California
90	Andrews, John	DE	6-6	251	26	4	Morgan St.
79	Antoine, Lionel	T	6-6	263	27	6	So. Illinois
7	Avellini, Bob	QB	6-2	206	24	4	Maryland
84	Baschnagel	WR-KR	6-0	193	23	3	Ohio St.
25	Best, Art	RB-KR	6-1	205	24	2	Kent St.
81	Bradley, Chuck	TE	6-6	235	27	4	Oregon
50	Bryant, W.	LB	6-3	239	25	5	Tenn. St.
55	Buffone, Doug	LB	6-2	227	33	12	Louisville
13	Burns, Ron	DB	6-1	192	22	1	Baylor
59	Campbell, Gary	LB	6-1	218	25	2	Colorado
43	Clemons, Craig	S	5-11	191	28	7	Iowa
63	Dean, Fred	G	6-3	253	22	2	Tex. So'ern
91	Douglas, Caesar	I	6-5	260	21	1	Ill. West.
39	Earl, Robin	RB-P	6-5	242	22	2	Washington
48	Ellis, Allan	CB	5-10	175	26	6	UCLA
8	Evans, Vince	QB-KR	6-2	216	22	2	So. Calif.
45	Fencik, Gary	S	6-1	192	23	3	Yale
92	Hansing, Rick	C	6-4	265	22	1	Bemidji
35	Harper, Roland	RB	5-11 1/2	209	24	4	La. Tech
67	Hart, Tommy	DE	6-4	249	33	11	Mor. Brown
73	Hartenstine, M.	DE	6-3	257	24	4	Penn St.
54	Hicks, Tom	LB	6-4	225	25	3	Illinois
65	Jackson, Noah	G	6-2	273	26	4	Tampa
62	Jiggettts, Dan	T	6-4	276	23	3	Harvard
99	Kirkhoff, Keith	DL	6-3	255	23	1	Buena Vista
88	Latta, Greg	TE	6-3	230	25	4	Morgan St.
70	Lick, Dennis	T	6-3	263	23	3	Wisconsin
24	Livers, Virgil	CB-KR	5-8 1/2	178	25	4	W. Kentucky
74	Meyers, Jerry	DE	6-4	245	23	3	No. Illinois
12	Meyer, Phil	DB-P	6-3	208	21	R	Illinois St.
82	Moore, Bob	TE	6-2	230	28	8	Stanford
29	Morgan, Mike	RB	5-11	218	21	R	Wisconsin
58	Muckenturm, J.	LB	6-4	226	24	3	Arkansas St.
22	Musso, J.	RB-KR	5-11	196	27	4	Alabama
52	Neal, Dan	C-G	6-4	248	28	6	Kentucky
93	Nelson, Orlando	TE	6-4	220	21	1	Utah St.
87	Newsome, Billy	DE	6-5	250	29	9	Grambling
68	Osborne, Jim	DT	6-3	251	28	7	Southern
86	Parsons, Bob	TE-P	6-5	232	27	7	Penn St.
34	Payton, W.	RB-KR	5-10 1/2	205	23	4	Jackson St.
53	Peiffer, Dan	C	6-3	251	26	4	SE Mo. State
15	Phipps, Mike	QB	6-3	211	30	9	Purdue
45	Plank, Doug	S	5-11 1/2	201	24	4	Ohio St.
60	Raines, Mike	DT	6-5	260	24	2	Alabama
80	Rather, Bo	WR	6-1	189	27	6	Michigan
83	Rivera, Steve	WR	5-11	190	23	3	California
57	Rives, Don	LB	6-2	231	26	5	Texas Tech
51	Rogers, Mel	LB	6-2	230	30	6	Florida A&M
76	Rydach, Ron	DT	6-4	257	25	4	Utah
44	Schmidt, Terry	CB-S	6-0	176	25	5	Ball St.
85	Schubert, S.	WR-KR	5-10	188	26	5	Mass.
89	Scott, James	WR-KR	6-1	191	25	3	Henderson
75	Sevy, Jeff	DE-G	6-5	261	27	4	California
69	Sorey, Revie	G	6-2	259	24	4	Illinois
47	Spivey, Mike	CB-KR	6-0	194	23	2	Colorado
71	Stillwell, Roger	DE	6-6	250	26	4	Stanford
16	Thomas, Bob	K	5-10	174	25	4	Notre Dame
23	Walterscheid	S-KR	5-11	185	23	2	So. Utah St.
11	Wilson, Edgar	WR	6-3	201	22	R	Michigan St.

#### DRAFTTEES

Round	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	
3	Shearer, Brad	DT	6-3	263	22	Texas
6	Jeremia, M.	LB-DE	6-2	243	23	Brig. Young
6	Skibinski, John	RB	6-0	219	22	Purdue
7	Jones, Herman	WR	6-3	207	21	Ohio St.
8	Freitas, George	TE	6-3	224	22	California
9	Martin, Mike	LB	6-2	220	23	Kentucky
10	Zambiasi, Ben	LB	6-0	211	21	Georgia
12	Sibley, Lew	LB	6-1	231	22	LSU

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B516



# DETROIT LIONS

## PREDICTION 3rd

For a decade—for longer—the Lions were a team plodding sideways. There was no concept, no purpose despite the annual great gusts of verbal wind originating in the front office. A succession of coaches arrived, departed. But the quarterback still seemed to be flat on his back and the record was stuck around .500 no matter what.

Bill Ford, a vocal owner, a year ago made grandiose promises of changes at last.

"... I'd rather go down with my guns blazing ... shooting Roman candles over the sidelines," he said in his typical flavorful way with words.

But he was embarrassed by his abortive attempts to pluck Chuck Knox from the Rams, and nothing changed. The club stuck on its treadmill. The Lions had become a team more to be pitied than laughed at.

At last at midseason last year, the Lions enroute to their standard 6-8, Ford had enough. He decided to sidetrack Russ Thomas, a close friend and personal benefactor. Thomas, as general manager, had been everybody's scapegoat for the Lions' failure. The flak he caught he deserved. The Lions, after all, had been Russ Thomas' creation. One coach, Joe Schmidt, had quit because of Thomas' interventions. Others complained.

With another disastrous season going on, Ford opened negotiations with Monte Clark for 1978. It would be a clean change. Clark would come in for five years with the title of head coach and director of football operations. It meant Clark would be delegated to make trades, conduct the draft, be in charge of the scouting, have final say on waivers. These were responsibilities entrusted before to Thomas. In essence, Clark had become general manager, too, though Thomas would retain that



MONTE CLARK, new coach, will be sole boss of all Lions' football activity.

title so he could negotiate salaries and attend league meetings.

Clark accepted the package with a positive stipulation. Any meddling by Thomas—and Clark would do just what he had done at San Francisco. There he had told Joe Thomas to stuff the coaching job when the 49ers' new regime had tried to diminish his authority.

## MONTE CLARK, Coach.

Assistants: Billy Atkins, Don Doll, Fred Hoaglin, Floyd Peters, Jimmy Raye, Bob Schnelker, Marty Shottenheimer, Doug Gerhart.

So in a drastic change of philosophy after 14 years of ownership, Ford brought Clark to Detroit.

"We've been rocking along in dead center ever since 1972 with 7-7 and 6-8 seasons," Ford explained. "I decided we were doing things wrong long enough and we would do it right this time."

Clark, replacing Tommy Hudspeth, arrived with a warning that those who had been laughing at the Lions had best beware.

"None of these men and I," he said pointing at his staff, "have ever been anybody's laughing stock and we don't intend to be here."

He also said when told that Detroit's talent was better than its record: "This team didn't have a player in the Pro Bowl, so how good can the talent be?"

Clark is a protege of Don Shula's. An old offensive lineman who could pass block, he coached the 49ers to an improved 8-6 record two years ago. Then rather than give up authority, he quit last year and was available when Ford approached him.

"I'm not going to take over

PAUL NAUMOFF, 215-pound Detroit linebacker, reads Green Bay play.





GREG LANDRY, Lions' QB, got 1359 yards, 6 TDs on 135 passes in '77.

with a flamethrower," he said. But showed strength early. When Herb Orvis, the team's most violent player on defense refused to attend a spring camp, Clark immediately traded the dissident to Baltimore. The Lions had been a team which did not make a meaningful trade in 10 years with Thomas in control. Here was Monte Clark flexing his authority already.

The first task is to develop an offense that can at least manufacture a first down. The offense last year rated 26th among the 28 clubs. The only poorer offenses were those of Green Bay and Tampa Bay, both in the Lion's division. Detroit's quarterbacks went down 52 times on sacks, the most of any team.

"I don't want to have a gimmick-type offense that depends on exotic formations," said Clark, Shula's man. "I think, simply, that consistency and execution

are two of the things we should strive for. We've got to learn consistency to lick our man one-on-one. And when we have enough people who win those one-on-one battles, then the Lions are going to win."

Based on the talent, which by Clark's standards is admittedly wretched, it will take another year or two for the new program to progress. But in this inferior division, it should not take the Lions any longer to become a force.

Clark plans to go with Greg Landry, never Bill Ford's nor Russ Thomas' quarterback during a checkered career in Detroit. Landry has been picked up and knocked down through his 10 years—and now is back up under his fifth head coach.

A year ago Landry suffered with inadequate protection and wound up embattled with coach Hudspeth despite a 56.3 percent

completion total. Young Gary Danielson finished the season. Now they are No. 1 and No. 2 again with Joe Reed the No. 3 man.

One of the Lions' problems has been a shortage of good, fast receivers. They do have J.D. Hill, who is not what he was with Buffalo. Ray Jarvis, the other starter, is much traveled and inconsistent. Luther Blue has some promise, but must learn the routes and must be able to catch the ball better. Freddie Scott, whom Clark got from Baltimore in the trade of Orvis, could be one answer. He seems to have ability. Clark also brought Larry Walton back from retirement where he had been dispatched last year when cut.

The Lions are doubly blessed at tight end with David Hill, the youngster, who is a chip off the old block of still-valuable Charlie Sanders.

The running has some potency, but should be considerably better. Much depends on the availability of Lawrence Gaines, the fullback who missed all last year with knee problems. It has been years since the Lions have had any sort of dazzling runner like a Simpson or a Payton. But Horace King is OK. Rick Kane showed promise but must learn and Leonard Thompson has speed. The Lions also have old campaigner Marv Hubbard and little Eddie Payton, who is Walter's brother and specializes in kick return spectaculars.

All fingers point at the offensive line—the Claws line. Many a time, when the quarterback wasn't getting dumped, one of the linemen was collecting an offensive holding penalty. Monte Clark believes poor technique is the problem and he himself, as an old line coach with Miami's champions, will teach it. The returning starters are Jim Yarbrough and Craig Hertwig at the tackles, Russ Bollinger and Lynn Boden at the guards and Jon Morris at center. Starters Mark Markovich and Rockne Freitas were during the year. Then Freitas was traded to Tampa Bay. Also on hand is Ken Long, Gary Anderson and Melvin Mitchell, plus several rookies.





JIM YARBROUGH, left, 6-6 tackle is 10-year veteran; CHARLIE SANDERS set club record for receptions and KEN SANDERS returns at defensive end.

But strangely for a club which has to hustle to make a first down the Lions drafted high toward defense, a comparative strength. The defense was the eighth best in the league.

But after the first two rounds, when cornerback Luther Bradley and pass rusher Al Baker were selected, the Lions went for a boodle of blockers. It was scatter-gun drafting, hoping one guy makes it and can help.

Second-draftee Baker now has a chance to make the starting defensive line with Orvis sent away. The rush has been fair to good. Returnees are Ken Sanders and Jim Mitchell outside and Doug English at tackle. Larry Hand, John Woodcock and Ernest Price are the extra veterans.

Clark plans to keep the line-backing intact. He has veterans Paul Naumoff and Charlie Weaver outside. These are two men with hitting ability and lots of maneuverability. Ed O'Neil has yet to play a full season as middle linebacker, but he has promise. Backups are Ron Crosby, Garth Ten Napel and Tony Daykin. There could be a depth problem.

The defensive backfield could be made over. It was vulnerable last year. James Hunter at cornerback is the only sure starter. But No. 1 draftee Bradley out of Notre Dame's national champions should play. The status of Lem Barney, the grand old All-Pro, is in doubt. He could be a starter again. Dick Jauron is the probable free safety with the strong safety up for competition due to

the signing problems of Charlie West. Walt Williams or Reggie Pinckney could work in. Levi Johnson, a veteran, has already been lost for the year.

The Lions paid dearly to improve their punting game by signing Tom Skladany, who refused to sign with Cleveland and sat out last year. He should be the best punter in pro football, especially kicking indoors in the Lions' Silverdome. Benny Ricardo re-

#### 1977 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Mike-Mayer, S., 43 points on 19 XP, 8 field goals	20th
<b>RUSHING</b> —King, 155 carries for 521 yds., 3.4 Avg., 1 TD	18th
<b>PASSING</b> —Landry, 135 of 240 attempts for 1359 yds., 6 TDs	4th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —King, (rb), 40 receptions for 238 yds., 6.0 Avg.	10th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Hunter, 6 for 104 yds., 17.3 Avg.	4th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Summers, 93 punts, 36.8 Avg., longest 51 yds.	11th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Payton, 30 for 290 yds, 9.7 Avg., 1 TD	3rd
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Payton, 22 for 548 yds., 24.9 Avg., 1 TD	4th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 5	BUFFALO (N)
12	AT Cincinnati (N)
21	AT Cleveland (N)
24	BALTIMORE (N)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

		1977 Scores
Sept.	3 GREEN BAY	10-6
	9 AT Tampa Bay (N)	16-7
	17 CHICAGO	14-31
	24 AT Seattle	—
Oct.	1 AT Green Bay (Mil)	9-10
	8 WASHINGTON	—
	15 AT Atlanta	6-17
	22 SAN DIEGO	20-0
	29 AT Chicago	20-30
Nov.	5 AT Minnesota	7-14
	12 TAMPA BAY	16-7
	19 AT Oakland	—
	23 DENVER	—
Dec.	3 AT St. Louis	—
	9 MINNESOTA 4 pm	21-30
	17 SAN FRANCISCO	7-28

turns to do the field goal work. He missed all last season with injury and Steve Mike-Mayer did the place kicking.

The Lions could plod sideways a little bit longer. But at least Monte Clark arrived with a roadmap and the guaranteed clout to use it.

#### LIONS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
60	Anderson, Gary	G	6-3	250	22	2	Stanford
20	Barney, Lem	DB	6-0	190	32	12	Jackson St.
89	Blue, Luther	WR	5-11	190	22	2	Iowa St.
62	Boden, Lynn	G	6-5	270	24	4	So. Dak. St.
73	Bolinger, Russ	G-T	6-5	255	23	3	Long Beach
43	Bolton, Andy	RB	6-1	205	23	3	Fisk
24	Bussey, Dexter	RB	6-1	210	25	5	Arlington
17	Butler, Skip	K	6-1	205	30	8	Boston Col.
31	Capriola, Glenn	RB	5-11	215	23	1	Penn St.
53	Crosby, Ron	LB	6-3	225	22	1	Purdue
16	Danielson, G.	QB	6-2	195	26	3	Ga. Tech
58	Daykin, Tony	LB	6-1	215	22	2	Texas
78	English, Doug	DT	6-5	255	24	4	Texas
70	Fest, Howard	OG	6-6	260	31	11	Wyoming
38	Gaines, L.	RB	6-1	240	24	2	Appalachian
74	Hand, Larry	DT	6-4	245	37	14	Georgia
71	Hertwig, Craig	T	6-8	270	25	4	Texas A&I
81	Hill, David	TE	6-2	220	23	3	Arizona St.
86	Hill, J.D.	WR	6-1	185	29	8	Colgate
44	Hubbard, Marv	RB	6-1	235	31	9	Grambling
28	Hunter, James	DB	6-3	195	23	3	Missouri
67	Jackson, Larron	OG	6-3	265	32	8	Norfolk
45	Jarvis, Ray	WR	6-1	190	28	6	Yale
26	Jauron, Dick	DB	6-0	190	27	6	Texas A&I
23	Johnson, Levi	DB	6-3	200	27	2	S. Jose St.
32	Kane, Rick	RB	5-11	200	23	2	Georgia
25	King, Horace	RB	5-10	210	24	4	Mass.
11	Landry, Greg	QB	6-4	205	31	11	Colorado St.
87	Larson, Bill	TE	6-4	220	24	3	Purdue
65	Long, Ken	G	6-3	265	24	2	Penn St.
68	Markovich, M.	G-C	6-5	255	25	5	Maryland
12	Mike-Mayer, S.	K	6-0	180	30	4	Va. State
83	Mitchell, Jim	DE	6-3	250	29	9	Tenn. St.
64	Mitchell, M.	C-G	6-2	260	24	3	Holy Cross
63	Morris, Jon	C	6-4	250	35	15	Tennessee
50	Naumoff, Paul	LB	6-1	215	32	12	Penn St.
55	O'Neil, Ed	LB	6-3	235	25	5	Jackson St.
34	Payton, Eddie	RB	5-8	175	26	2	E. Carolina
42	Pinckney, Reggie	DB	5-11	190	22	2	Texas A&I
72	Price, Ernest	DE	6-4	245	27	6	Miss. State
14	Reed, Joe	QB	6-1	195	29	7	S. Diego St.
1	Ricardo, Benny	K	5-10	175	23	2	Minnesota
88	Sanders, Chas.	TE	6-4	230	31	11	How. Payne
82	Sanders, Ken	DE	6-5	245	27	7	Amherst
47	Scott, Freddie	WR	6-2	175	26	5	Minnesota
	Skladany, Tom	PK	6-0	195	23	2	Louisville
79	Simonson, Dave	T	6-6	265	25	5	Texas A&M
10	Summers, Wilbur	P	6-4	220	23	3	Oklahoma
57	Ten Napel, Garth	LB	6-1	215	23	3	Arizona St.
39	Thompson, L. RB-WR	5-10	190	25	4	10	Alcorn St.
49	Walton, Larry	WR	6-0	185	30	10	USC
	Washington, D.	LB	6-5	230	30	9	El Paso
59	Weaver, Charlie	LB	6-2	225	28	8	New Mex. St.
40	West, Charlie	DB	6-1	190	31	11	Hawaii
21	Williams, Walt	DB	6-0	185	23	2	Florida
77	Woodcock, J.	DT-DE	6-3	240	23	3	
75	Yarbrough, Jim	T	6-6	270	31	10	

#### DRAFTIES

Round	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	Bradley, Luther	DB	6-2	200	22	Notre Dame
2	Baker, Al	DE	6-6	260	21	Colorado St.
4	Filer, William	OT	6-4	250	22	W. Tex. St.
	Elias, Homer	OG	6-3	260	22	Tenn. St.
5	Tearry, Larry	C	6-3	265	21	Wake Forest
	Fowler, Amos	OG	6-3	250	21	So. Miss.
	Gray, Dan	DE	6-6	240	21	Rutgers
6	Hicks, Dwight	DB	6-1	185	21	Michigan
	Ardizzone, Tony	G-T	6-3	255	21	No'western
	Thompson, J.	WR	6-1	185	21	California
7	Gibson, Bruce	FB	6-0	230	22	Pacific
8	Breech, Jim	K	5-6	155	21	California
10	Arrington, Fred	LB	5-2	215	23	Purdue
11	Murray, Richard	DT	6-2	255	23	Oklahoma
12	Patterson, Mark	DB	6-2	195	22	Wash. St.

#### FREE AGENTS

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
Bratkowski, Bob	WR	6-1	185	22	Wash. St.
Callicutt, Ken	RB	6-0	190	22	Clemson
Cunningham, T.	RB	5-9	185	23	Long Beach
Fields, Gregg	DT	6-5	260	22	Grambling
Gilbert, Lewis	TE	6-4	225	21	Florida
Hodges, Walt	RB	5-11	205	24	Cent. Mich.
Jones, Jimmy	DB	6-1	180	24	Cent. Mich.
McAllister, Ken	RS	5-11	180	21	California
McLaughlin, T.	QB	6-0	195	21	Iowa
Mullens, Ken	LB	6-2	240	24	Florida A&M
Skladany, Tom	K	6-0	195	22	Ohio St.
Sokolosky, John	C	6-2	240	21	Wayne St.
Stevenson, Irv	FB	6-1	240	24	So'western
Stowe, Jim	TE	6-2	225	21	N.C. State
Watson, Tony	WR	6-1	185	21	San Fran. St.





## SUPERPOWER MATCHUPS

# the greatest statistical format ever

Team and Present Record

Head Coach's career record and percentage

Power Rating Indicates Strength of team

Roster with position designation

Final score

Date of Game

Final Points Spread

Upcoming Opponents

Complete total statistics for every offensive, defensive, and special teams' category. These totals are updated every week.

Complete statistical summary and the scores of team's previous games. Each past game will be included in this format.

Capsule report of previous game from College & Pro Football Newsweekly's nationally acclaimed correspondents, filing from the scene of action.

Complete team and opponent's first downs

Total passing yardage

Completions, pass attempts and interceptions

Total fumbles and fumbles lost

Rush attempts and total yards

Punt return, kickoff return and intercepted pass yardage

Number of punts and average

Number of penalties and yards penalized

Game outlook: analysis of each team's strengths and weaknesses, and prediction of the completion and outcome of game

MATCHUPS - ROSTERS - STATISTICS - PAST RESULTS - ANALYSIS

TEXAS (20-24-1)

College Matchups

HOUSTON OILERS

3-1	O.A. PHILIPS	750
Power Rating: 121		
Alexander	CB	Roberts
Bethune	DE	Sampson
Birmingham	LB	Sawyer
Burroughs	LB	Shannon
Coleman	WR	Washington
Culp	WR	Whittington
Drungo	MG	Wright
Fisher	T	Alston
Harden	CB	Benison
Hopkins	RB	Beverly
Hunt	C	Brazier
Kiner	LB	Conley
Mince	LB	Conley
Parks	WR	Dickey
WR	WR	White

TEAM

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

46-41-1	CHUCK NOLL	529
Power Rating: 135		
Bear	RB	Reavis
Bradley	LB	Down
Clark	CB	KB Swann
Davis	G-C	Tones
Fiqua	RB	Whitten
Gattis	WR	Brasshaw
Graham	DE	Blount
Grossman	DT	Bradshaw
Harralson	DE	Brown
Kellum	CB	Collier
Lambert	RB	Edwards
Mansfield	LB	Gomes
	LB	Thomas
	CB	Webster
	C	Graville

TEAM

HOUSTON (27-24)

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# GREEN BAY PACKERS

## PREDICTION 4th

By now it is perfectly clear that Bart Starr, the coach, is not another Vincent Lombardi.

Once upon a time history was made in the community of Green Bay. Tradition was established and the townspeople believed it could all be recreated by the magic of a name. Poor Bart Starr was a name. Poor Bart Starr was the connection between the victorious Lombardian past and the wonderful future.

Poor Bart Starr. He returned by saying:

"I hope to build on the great lessons we learned from Coach Lombardi."

Poor Bart Starr said: "I hope to restore some of the prestige that was part of this organization for many years."

Poor Bart Starr paraphrased Winston Churchill: "One time in each man's life there comes a time when he is tapped on the shoulder to do a special job and if he's not prepared it's unfortunate."

Poor Bart Starr. He coaches one of pro football's unfortunates.

His bright words ring old and cobwebbed now. They are four years old. There has been no visible sign of progress. There has been no indication of a return to any of the past glories. After the first three football seasons with Bart Starr as head coach and general manager the Packers remain stuck where they were. They regressed to 4-10 last year. But for the presence of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, they would have been the most feeble team in the NFC.

It is a bitter truth that since Lombardi's retirement in the joy of Super Bowl II, the Packers have had but two winning seasons in 10. Under Bart Starr's handling the last three seasons, the club has mustered a total of 13 victories.

Remember the most magnificent drive in the history of pro football? Bart Starr coaxing the

ball downfield in the championship game against Dallas on the solidly frozen field in the 13-below zero cold. The clock running, running, running out. Bart Starr guiding it closer, closer, closer. Bart Starr at last sneaking across the frozen goal line behind the blocker of Jerry Kramer. Vince Lombardi, arms aloft in jubilation, the fur collar of his coat, the breathe exhaust billowing through his gap-toothed smile.

That was Green Bay. That was what the townspeople remember. That was what they thought about when they tacked those "Fresh Start With Bart" stickers on the bumpers of their pickup trucks.

The Lombardi Legend has come to haunt Bart Starr.

What Bart Starr lacks as coach in his effort to rebuild on the great lessons learned from Coach

**BART STARR, Coach.**

**Assistants: Dave Hanner, Bill Curry, Zeke Bratkowski, Lew Carpenter, Dick LeBeau, John Meyer, Bob Lord, Ernie McMillan.**

Lombardi is Bart Starr. And Jerry Kramer. And Ron Kramer. And Ray Nitschke, Willie Wood, Willie Davis, Jim Taylor, Paul Hornung and on and on.

Wake up the echoes.

Bart Starr, the coach, does not have the athletes to build on the great lessons learned from Coach Lombardi. He does not have the talent to restore some of the prestige that was part of the organization for many years.

But is that Bart Starr's fault? When coaches do not have the necessary talent to coach, they can blame the general manager. That is easy. But Bart Starr is the general manager that Bart Starr, the coach, must blame.

The situation remains deplorable. The Packers, going into 1978, seem a team without hope.

Poor Bart Starr, by now, must be regarded as a coach in jeop-

BARTY SMITH gained 554 yards, two touchdowns in '77 for Green Bay Packers.



ardly in a league where coaches are changed on whim even when they win.

What Bart Starr needs most, immediately, is an offense. It used to be the Packers would go click, click, click. The famed, deadly Green Bay sweep. Click. Third and a half yard. The defense hunched to stop Taylor. Click. Bart Starr fakes play action to Taylor, the defense converges. Bart still has the ball, Carroll Dale is wide open. Easy touchdown. Click. Lombardi grins.

Last year the once grand Packers ranked 27th, next to last, in offensive yield in the entire NFL. Only, yes, Tampa Bay was lousier.

To have a better offense, Bart Starr first needs a quarterback—like Bart Starr. The legend tells you Lombardi's quarterback came out of Alabama's QB training grounds as a 17th-round draft choice. Lombardi developed Starr, gave him a chance. Last year when Lynn Dickey went down Bart Starr, the coach, committed himself to a young rookie eight-

round draft choice out of Furman. A repeat of history it was not. But David Whitehurst looms as the Packers' starting quarterback. He can throw the football, he is mobile, he can lead. Bart Starr knows quarterbacks and he likes Whitehurst.

The young man did show an inclination to throw interceptions. But that is the result of his inexperience, his newness at reading the complex pro defenses. Lynn Dickey also was interception prone before he broke his leg—and he has had eight years in the league.

The camp battle between Whitehurst and Dickey should be interesting. Will Starr gamble as he did by throwing the play pass so often on third-and-one? Or will he play safe and go with the veteran who has not won for him?

No matter, the Packers have to get more than the six touchdown passes of last year.

With this in mind their first-round draft choice was James Lofton, a wide receiver from Stanford. Lofton is a likely starter as a rookie. The incumbents are Steve Odom and Ollie Smith. Backups are Randy Vataha, Aundra Thompson and Keith Hartwig. The Packers will have to throw more often to the wide receivers.

Rich McGeorge is the veteran tight end. He is a very capable performer, who blocks and catches well enough. Bert Askson is the backup TE.

Starr finally divested himself of John Brockington after 11 carries last year—and so ended his most serious personnel problem. But Brockington's departure left the Packers without a serious running attack. Not that Brock had provided much over the last several seasons.

Now the running is done by Barty Smith and Eric Torkelson. They blend well and can move the ball some. Behind them are Willard Harrell, a threat on the left-handed halfback pass, Nate Simpson, Terrell Middleton and Jim Culbreath.

Starr likes his rebuilt line, an earlier bare spot. The returning starters are tackles Mark Koncar and Dick Himes, guards Dennis



CARL BARILAUSKAS, a 6-6 tackle obtained from Jets will help Packers.

Havig and Mel Jackson and center Larry McCarren. In reserve the Pack has Bob Kowalkowski, Greg Koch, Darrel Gofourth, Rick Scribner and Gerald Skinner.

Strangely, on a team so strained for viable offense, the Packers drafted for defense in the high choices after the first round. This was a defense that was ranked 10th among the 14 NFC clubs, a defense that certainly has to be improved. The pass rush was decent, but the interception work was not much.

The line is youngish with last year's two first-round choices making contributions. Mike Butler, one of them, is now a returning starter at defensive end. Ezra Johnson, the other, could be the starter at the other end this year. Bob Barber goes in as the incumbent, though. Returning to start at tackle is Dave Roller and backed by Clarence Williams and Herb McMath. Carl Barzilauskas,

JAMES LOFTON, wide receiver and first round draft choice, may start.





obtained via trade from the Jets, could break into the starting unit.

The draft concentration was on linebackers which is strange in the light of the players already on the roster. Linebacking would seem to be a strength with Jim Carter in the middle and Freddie Carr and Gary Weaver to the outside. Carr is one of the fine vets in the league. Even so Starr went for John Anderson from Michigan with is second first-round pick and Mike Hunt from Minnesota on the second round. The two new linebackers figure to have shots at starting because of their premium selections. Then Starr took another linebacker, Mike Douglass, on the fifth round. Carter came back last year to have one of his better seasons. In reserve are veterans Don Hansen, Tom Toner and Jim Gueno.

There seems to be experienced ability in the defensive backfield despite the record of 13 interceptions. Willie Buchanan and Mike McCoy are the corner backs and Johnny Gray and Steve Luke like to hit from safety. Terry Randolph, Steve Wagner and Tim Moresco are around to lend the unit its depth.

Starr does have his kicking game settled now with the return and new reliability of Chet Mar-

Willard Harrell rushed for 140 yards, one TD, caught 19 for 194 yds.



LYNN DICKEY, left, completed 113 passes for 1346 yards, 5 TDs; DAVE BEVERLY had 85 punts, 39.9 average; RICH McGEORGE caught 17 for 142 yards, 1 TD.

col. Marcol has the strongest leg in football and a decent degree of accuracy. Dave Beverly is a fine punter who allows Starr to worry about other facets of the game.

This should be an interesting year at Green Bay, where he Pack never has come back. What makes it interesting is that it is not third-and-one for Bart Starr, coach. Rather it is third-and-13.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Marcol, 50 points on 11 XP, 12 field goals ..... 16th	
<b>RUSHING</b> —B. Smith, 166 carries for 554 yds., 3.3 Avg., 2 TDs ..... 16th	
<b>PASSING</b> —Dickey, 113 of 220 attempts for 1346 yds., 5 TDs ..... 12th	
<b>RECEIVING</b> —B. Smith, 37 receptions for 340 yds., 9.2 Avg., 1 TD ..... 14th	
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Luke, 4 for 9 yds., 2.3 Avg. .... 25th	
<b>PUNTING</b> —Beverly, 85 punts, 39.9 Avg., longest 59 yds. .... 6th	
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Harrell, 28 for 253 yds., 9.0 Avg., 1 TD ..... 5th	
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Odom, 23 for 468 yds., 20.3 Avg. .... 17th	

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 5 KANSAS CITY (N)	
11 AT Washington (N)	
19 ST. LOUIS (N)	
26 CINCINNATI (N)	

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 AT Detroit	
10 NEW ORLEANS (Mil)	
17 OAKLAND	
24 AT San Diego	
Oct. 1 DETROIT (Mil)	
8 CHICAGO	
15 SEATTLE (Mil)	
22 AT Minnesota	
29 TAMPA BAY	
Nov. 5 AT Philadelphia	
12 DALLAS (Mil)	
19 AT Denver	
26 MINNESOTA	
Dec. 3 AT Tampa Bay	
10 AT Chicago	
17 AT Los Angeles	

#### 1977 Scores

6-10	
24-20	
—	
—	
10-9	
0-26	
—	
—	
—	
—	
6-13	
13-0	
10-21	
6-24	

#### PACKERS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
88	Askson, Bert	TE	6-2	225	32	5	Tex. So.
70	Barber, Bob	DE	6-3	240	26	3	Grambling
	Barzilauskas, C.	DT	6-6	270	26	5	Indiana
11	Beverly, David	P	6-2	180	27	5	Auburn
	Brown, Bob	DT	6-5	280	37	12	Ark. AMN
	Bruner, Joe	QB	6-4	215	24	1	Memphis St.
28	Buchanan, Willie	CB	6-0	190	27	7	S. Diego St.
77	Butler, Mike	DE	6-5	265	23	2	Kansas
53	Carr, Fred	LB	6-5	240	31	11	El Paso
50	Carter, Jim	LB	6-3	245	29	9	Minnesota
	Craig, Reggie	WR	6-0½	190	24	1	Arkansas
31	Culbreath, Jim	RB	6-0	210	25	8	Oklahoma
	Darby, Alvis	TE	6-4	225	23	3	Florida
10	Dickey, Lynn	QB	6-4	220	28	8	Kansas St.
12	Dowling, Brian	QB	6-2	200	30	4	Yale
57	Gofourth, Derrel	C	6-3	260	22	2	Oklahoma St.
24	Gray, Johnnie	S	5-11	185	24	4	Fullerton
	Groce, Ron	RB	6-2	230	23	2	Macalester
51	Gueno, Jim	LB	6-2	220	23	3	Tulane
58	Hansen, Don	LB	6-2	228	33	12	Illinois
40	Harrell, Willard	RB	5-8½	182	25	3	Pacific
82	Hartwig, Keith	WR	6-0	186	24	2	Arizona
62	Havig, Dennis	G	6-3	255	28	8	Colorado
72	Himes, Dick	T	6-4	260	31	11	Ohio State
71	Jackson, Melvin	G	6-1	267	23	4	USC
78	Johnson, Ezra	DE	6-4	240	22	2	Mor. Brown
68	Koch, Greg	T	6-4	265	22	2	Arkansas
79	Koncar, Mark	T	6-5	268	24	3	Colorado
67	Kowalkowski, Bob	G	6-3	245	34	13	Virginia
60	Knutson, Steve	T	6-3	254	26	4	USC
46	Luke, Steve	S	6-2	205	24	4	Ohio St.
13	Marcol, Chester	K	6-0	190	28	7	Hillsdale
34	Middleton, T.	RB	6-10	195	22	2	Memphis
37	Moresco, Tim	DB	5-10½	176	23	2	Syracuse
54	McCarren, Larry	C	6-3	248	26	6	Illinois
29	McCoy, Mike C.	DB	5-11	183	24	3	Colorado
81	McGeorge, Rich	TE	6-4	230	29	9	Elon
61	McMath, Herb	DT	6-4	250	23	3	Morningside
84	Odom, Steve	WR	5-8	174	25	5	Utah
	Petersen, Don	TE	6-4¾	237	22	1	Boston Coll.
23	Randolph, T.	DB	6-0	184	22	2	Amer. Int.
74	Roller, Dave	DT	6-2	270	28	5	Kentucky
64	Scribner, Rick	G	6-4	257	22	1	Idaho St.
	Seivers, Larry	WR	6-4	197	23	1	Tennessee
48	Simpson, Nate	RB	5-11	190	23	2	Tenn. St.
73	Skinner, Gerald	T	6-4	260	23	1	Arkansas
33	Smith, Bart	RB	6-4	240	25	5	Richmond
56	Smith, Blane	LB	6-3	238	23	2	Purdue
89	Smith, Ollie	WR	6-3	200	28	5	Tenn.
43	Thompson, A.	WR	6-0	186	24	2	E. Tex. St.
	Thompson, Ken	LB	6-1	223	23	1	Ohio St.
63	Tipton, Rell	G	6-4	245	22	1	Baylor
59	Toner, Tom	LB	6-3	235	27	6	Idaho St.
26	Torkelson, Eric	RB	6-2	194	25	5	Connecticut
18	Vatava, Randy	WR	5-10	170	29	8	Stanford
21	Wagner, Steve	DB	6-2	208	23	3	Wisconsin
52	Weaver, Gary	LB	6-1	225	28	6	Fresno St.
17	Whitehurst, D.	QB	6-2	204	22	2	Furman
83	Williams, C.	DE	6-5	255	31	9	Pr. View

#### DRAFTIES

Round	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	
1	Lofton, James	WR	6-3	187	21	Stanford
	Anderson, John	LB	6-3	221	22	Michigan
2	Hunt, Mike	LB	6-2	240	21	Minnesota
	Hood, Estus	DB	5-11	180	22	Illinois St.
5	Douglass, Mike	LB	6-0	224	23	S. Diego
	Wildner, Willie	RB	6-1	200	22	Florida
6	Harris, Leotis	G	6-1	267	22	Arkansas
7	Plasketes, Geo.	LB	6-0	229	22	Mississippi
8	Sproul, Dennis	QB	6-2	210	21	Arizona St.
9	Meyers, Keith	QB	6-2	190	21	Utah St.
10	Key, Larry	RB	5-9	193	22	Florida St.
	Totten, Mark	C	6-3	288	21	Florida
11	Jones, Terry	DT	6-2	259	21	Alabama
12	Ramson, Eason	TE	6-2	221	22	Wash. State



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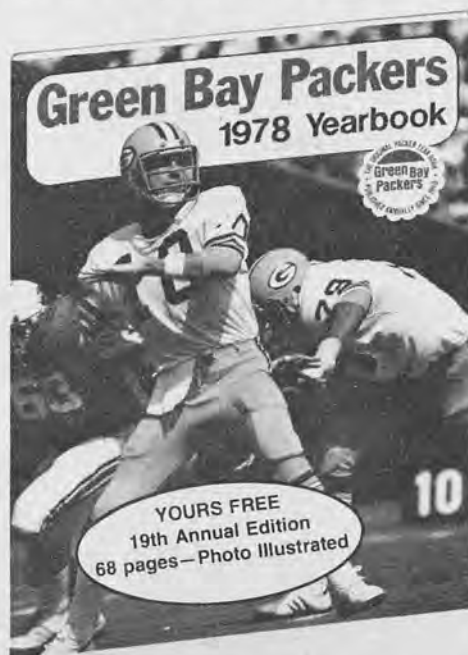
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# TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

**JOHN McKAY, Coach.**

**Assistants: Jerry Frei, Phil Krueger, Willie Brown, Abe Gbron, Wayne Fontes, Joe Gibbs, Tom Bass, Skip Husbands, Bill Nelson.**

## PREDICTION 5th

**G**uess, if you dare, the possessor of the longest winning streak of any team in the NFC Central entering the 1978 season.

Try and guess again. If you said the Vikings or the Lions or the Bears or even the Packers, you guessed wrong. Two of those lost in playoffs—and the other two plain lost.

Now the correct answer to this puzzle, naturally, is the Tampa Bay Buccaneers who possess the longest winning streak alive in the NFC Central. It is all of two victories long.

And perhaps it is a shame, at that, that these Bucs finally won in the next-to-last game of 1977 after going 0-26 to begin with. Right there they blew their image.

They had been America's bellylaugh, coached by John McKay, who always appreciated a joke. Johnny Carson brought the Tampa Bay Bucs up to his vast audience of insomniacs. When did he ever mention the Oakland Raiders or Dallas Cowboys? Orange Crush T-shirts made a dent on the commercial markets of the nation. But were they keepsakes in the style of the shirts eulogizing the Bucs: "Tampa Bay—Go for 0 and 28?"

Ah, the Buccaneers finally had to wreck it all. They forfeited their glorious chance to become American's most glorious bumbler since the New York Mets ran bases backwards. It all ended at New Orleans. The Bucs won a game 33-14. That ignited a magnificent celebration in Tampa and surrounding communities. But the rest of America wept. Then to show it was no accident, the Bucs won again the following week. They decked the Cardinals 17-7.

Perhaps this Buccaneermania did not signal the start of a new dynasty. But it was hardly coincidental that shortly thereafter the Saints and Cardinals fired their head coaches.



JOHN McKAY, Tampa coach feels club is moving along road to five-year plan.

But that is all history now, something for the scrapbooks.

It is 1978—and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are just another football team in the group. They have won, so there is nothing distinctive about them any more. All they have left is to scramble toward mediocrity, have their locker-room squabbles, win some, lose some—and maybe some day they will emulate the Denver Broncos.

This can be said for the Bucs: Their winning streak did not create a false complacency. The Bucs have been busy, busy between seasons.

Their 2-12 record earned them the very first pick in the draft. But, copycatting Seattle the year before, the Bucs traded those first rights to Earl Campbell to Houston. They get a supply draft choices back, including Houston's first-round pick this year. That was used to pick Doug Williams, out of Grambling. He is the one McKay will build some desper-

ately needed offense with down the pike.

In addition, the Bucs were grabbing at a lot of other club's rejects, disappointments, malcontents—guys who have played well before. So the Bucs go into their new season with some seasoned pros in Wally Chambers, Ernie Holmes, Rockne Freitas and Don Hardeman. They also go in with a couple of healthy quarterbacks, Mike Boryla and Gary Huff.

"If we can get consistent quarterback play, we'll be a much better offensive team this year," McKay said. "It is imperative that Boryla and Huff be free of injury. Losing them last year absolutely killed us."

That is a moot point. But it is true the Bucs gained the fewest yards of any team in football last year. They were 28th of 28 in passing and they were 28th of 28 in rushing. And this offense scored a piddling 103 points all told. A lot of teams scored twice

as many points. A few of the better teams tripled it.

"Defensively, we must improve even though we were the most improved team in the league last year," McKay said.

The defense, really, was respectable. It was 13th in the entire league, ninth in the NFC.

"Overall," said McKay, "we're well on the road to being what we said we'd be in five years—a contender in our division."

John McKay can say that looking around the rest of Pete Rozelle's weakest division.

A year ago Boryla and Huff were injured and the Bucs were forced to start the season with rookies at quarterback. Randy Hedberg and Jeb Blount fluctuated with the job through the early season as the first-year 0-14 increased to create the comic-making losing streak. Near the end Huff returned and was architect of the victories.

But the savvy Boryla looms as this year's No. 1 with Huff in reserve and the precious rookie Williams in training. Hedberg and Blount were others on hand.

Receiving is a spot, too, which must be highly improved. Morris Owens is entrenched at one wide receiver position. John McKay, the coach's son, is the incumbent at the other. But young McKay has competition from such as Gerald Tinker, Issac Hagins and Larry Mucker. Dana Nafziger is the incumbent tight end and the Bucs have wanted another. It could be Jack Novak or Charles Waddell off the veteran roster.

Tampa Bay believed it had its potent running back when it drafted Ricky Bell No. 1 in the 1977 draft and paid out millions. But Bell played in unhappiness, without the blocking a caliber back has to have. He gained only 436 yards as a rookie. Jimmy DuBose started alongside Bell when the experiment with Anthony Davis flopped. A. Davis has been traded for Hardeman now. So there is competition between DuBose and Hardeman with rookie Johnny Davis also seeking to be Bell's running mate. Davis was the Bucs' second-round choice. Other returning backs are Louis Carter and Ed Williams.

The line allowed the green

quarterbacks to get trapped and rolled over 48 times. It is an area for much bolstering. The acquisition of Freitas, a huge tackle, should help. The returning veterans are Darryl Carlton and Dave Reavis, guards Dan Medlin and Jeff Winans and center Dan Ryczek. Also on the squad are Blanchard Carter, Randy Johnson and Steve Wilson. With a second second-round draft choice, the Bucs added guard Brett Moritz.

The defense which developed lots of pride and some cohesiveness was a 3-4 unit. It will be juggled with the addition of Chambers, who cost next year's first-round draft choice, and Holmes, who started when the Steelers won their Super Bowls. Chambers had money fights with the Bears and was injured throughout last year, seldom playing. Holmes had a number of behavioral problems in Pitts-

burgh, but he is a fierce competitor. They both should be regulars, aligning in the three-man front with the excellent Lee Roy Selmon. That would place last year's starters Council Rudolph and Dave Pear in reserve, unless McKay elects to go to the standard four-man front. Whatever, the Bucs do have the knack for rushing the passer. Other veteran defensive linemen are Charlie Hannah, Greg Johnson, Bill Kollar, Glenn Robinson and Tody Smith.

The returning four-man linebacking unit consists of David Lewis and Cecil Johnson outside and Dewey Selmon and Richard Wood inside. It is a rugged foursome. Other linebackers on the squad are Rik Bonness, Paul Harris and Mike Lemon.

The secondary did surprising well last year with only 10 touchdowns allowed. Other teams did worse. The returnees in the defen-

DAVE PEAR, Buccaneers tackle, gives cheer after sacking Bears' Bob Avellini.







DAVE GREEN, left, averaged 40.3 yards punting; GARY HUFF returns healthy at quarterback and MORRIS OWENS, right, is set at one wide receiver position.

sive backfield are Jeris White and Mike Washington at the corners and Cedric Brown and Mark Cotney at the safeties. For depth, McKay has Curtis Jordan, and Danny Reece.

Depth is needed at most positions.

The kicking game is an area McKay has stressed, bringing in a corps of kickers the first two years. Certainly, this parade will continue. Much of last year Dave

Green did a two-pronged job. Green is a fine punter, and punting happens to represent much of Tampa Bay's attack. But Green is only an adequate place kicker. Allan Leavitt is the other placement man, a young player with potential off his college marks.

So it is that the team with the longest winning streak in the one-time Black and Blue Division of Vince Lombardi, Joe Schmidt and Dick Butkus enters its third

WALLY CHAMBERS, traded by Chicago gives Bucs seasoned pro at DE spot.



#### 1977 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Leavitt, 20 points on 5 XP, 5 field goals	44th
<b>RUSHING</b> —Bell, 148 carries for 436 yds., 2.9 Avg., 1 TD	23rd
<b>PASSING</b> —Huff, 67 of 138 attempts for 889 yds., 3 TDs	T. 22nd
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Owens, 34 receptions for 655 yds., 19.3 Avg., 3 TDs	16th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Washington, 5 for 71 yds., 14.2 Avg., 1 TD	10th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Green, 98 punts, 40.3 Avg., longest 70 yds.	4th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Reece, 31 for 276 yds., 8.9 Avg.	6th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Hagins, 21 for 493 yds., 23.5 Avg.	11th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 5 CINCINNATI (N)
12 BALTIMORE (N)
19 AT New Orleans (N)
26 MIAMI (N)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

		1977 Scores
Sept.	2 N.Y. GIANTS (N)	0-10
	9 DETROIT (N)	—
	17 AT Minnesota	—
	24 ATLANTA 4pm	0-17
Oct.	1 MINNESOTA	3-9
	8 AT Kansas City	—
	15 AT N.Y. Giants	—
	22 CHICAGO	0-10
	29 AT Green Bay	—
Nov.	5 AT Los Angeles	0-31
	12 AT Detroit	7-16
	19 BUFFALO	—
	26 AT Chicago	—
Dec.	3 GREEN BAY	0-13
	10 AT San Francisco	—
	17 NEW ORLEANS	33-14

season. The laughter has died out and America's football fans must find something else to tickle their funny bones. Nor will Tampa's home fans have much to amuse them. But three victories in the expanded 16-game schedule would represent improvement at the mid-season of John McKay's five-year plan to competitive football.

#### BUCCANEERS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
42	Bell, Ricky	RB	6-2	220	22	2	So. Calif.
17	Blount, Jeb	QB	6-3	200	23	1	Tulsa
53	Bonness, Rik	LB	6-3	220	23	2	Nebraska
10	Boryla, Mike	QB	6-3	200	26	4	Stanford
34	Brown, Cedric	DB	6-1	190	23	1	Kent St.
70	Carlton, Darryl	T	6-6	270	24	3	Tampa
66	Carter, B.	T	6-4	250	22	2	Las Vegas
32	Carter, Louis	RB	5-11	209	24	3	Maryland
80	Chambers, W.	DT-DE	6-6	260	25	6	E. Kentucky
33	Cotney, Mark	DB	6-0	205	25	3	Cameron St.
35	DuBose, Jimmy	RB	5-11	215	23	2	Florida
71	Freitas, Rocky	T	6-6	275	32	11	Oregon St.
88	Giles, Tommy	TE	6-3	240	24	2	Alcorn St.
4	Green, Dave	P-KS	6-0	205	21	5	Ohio
86	Green, Jessie	WR	6-2	185	23	2	Tulsa
81	Hagins, Isaac	WR	5-9	180	23	1	Southern
30	Hardeman, Don	FB	6-2	235	25	4	Tex. A&I
74	Harper, Calvin	T	6-5	275	25	1	Illinois St.
52	Harris, Paul	LB	6-3	215	23	2	Alabama
14	Hedberg, Randy	QB	6-3	200	23	2	Minot St.
69	Holmes, Ernie	UT	6-3	270	29	7	Tex. So'ern
19	Huff, Gary	QB	6-1	195	26	5	Florida St.
56	Johnson, Cecil	LB	6-2	220	22	2	Pittsburgh
72	Johnson, Greg	DE	6-4	240	24	1	Florida St.
65	Johnson, Randy	G	6-2	255	24	1	Georgia
25	Jordan, Curtis	DB	6-2	185	24	3	Tex. Tech
77	Kollar, Bill	DT	6-4	256	25	4	Montana St.
9	Leavitt, Allan	K	5-11	176	22	2	Georgia
59	Lemon, Mike	LB	6-2	220	26	3	Kansas
57	Lewis, David	LB	6-4	230	23	4	So. Calif.
89	McKay, John	WR	5-11	185	24	2	So. Calif.
68	Medlin, Dan	G	6-4	255	28	4	N.C. State
87	Mucker, Larry	WR	5-11	190	23	2	Arizona St.
83	Nafziger, Dana	TE	6-1	220	24	4	Cal Poly
80	Novak, Jack	TE	6-5	240	24	3	Wisconsin
6	O'Donoghue, Neil	K	6-6	220	24	2	St. Bernard
85	Owens, Morris	RB	6-0	190	24	3	Arizona
31	Packer, Walter	RB	5-11	170	22	1	Miss. St.
76	Pear, Dave	DT	6-2	250	24	3	Washington
23	Ragsdale, G.	RB-WR	5-11	185	24	1	N.C. A&T
75	Reavis, Dave	T-G	6-5	250	27	3	Arkansas
46	Reece, Danny	DB	5-11	190	22	2	So. Calif.
64	Robinson, G.	DE	6-6	245	26	3	Oklahoma St.
78	Rudolph, C.	DE	6-4	255	27	6	Kentucky St.
51	Ryzek, Dan	C	6-3	250	28	5	Virginia
61	Selmon, Dewey	LB	6-1	250	24	2	Oklahoma
63	Selmon, Lee Roy	DE	6-3	260	23	2	Oklahoma
94	Smith, Tody	DE	6-5	250	29	7	So. Calif.
5	Swilder, Larry	P	6-1	185	22	2	Pittsburgh
20	Tinker, Gerald	DB	5-9	171	25	2	Kent St.
82	Waddell, Chas.	TE	6-5	230	24	1	No. Carolina
40	Washington, M.	DB	6-3	190	24	2	Alabama
67	Watson, John	T	6-4	244	28	8	Oklahoma
45	White, Jeris	DB	5-11	180	25	4	Hawaii
43	Williams, Ed	RB	6-1	245	27	4	Langston
79	Wilson, Steve	G	6-3	265	23	2	Georgia
62	Winans, Jeff	T-G	6-5	265	26	4	So. Calif.
54	Wood, Richard	LB	6-2	215	24	3	So. Calif.

#### DRAFTIES

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Round	College
12	Williams, Doug	QB	6-4	214	22	1	Grambling
38	Davis, Johnny	RB	6-1	230	21	2a	Georgia
67	Moritz, Brett	OL	6-5	254	22	2b	Nebraska
84	Marshall, Elijah	WR	6-0	186	22	6	N.C. State
58	McGriff, John	LB	6-2	242	24	8	Miami (Fla.)
29	Taylor, Willie	WR	6-1	179	22	9	Pittsburgh
55	Brown, Aaron	LB	6-2	228	21	10	Ohio St.
39	McLee, Kevin	RB	6-0	188	22	12	Georgia

#### ROOKIES

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
44	Cesare, William	DB	5-11	190	22	Miami (Fla.)
91	Collier, Steve	T	6-4	260	23	Alabama
47	Elias, Kelly	DB	6-2	193	22	Boston Col.
83	Gonsoulin, J.	TE	6-3	215	23	McNeese
41	Jones, Gary	DB	6-3	200	23	Mississippi
50	Maughan, Steve	LB	6-1	210	24	Utah St.
37	Petercusi, G.	DB	5-10	179	22	Penn St.
15	Sikorski, Brian	QB	6-3	205	23	Villanova
36	Wender, Jack	RB	6-0	210	23	Fresno St.
90	Womack, Wayne	LB	6-2	230	22	Utah St.

# LOS ANGELES RAMS

**GEORGE ALLEN, Coach.**

*Assistants: Jack Faulkner, Ray Malavasi, Lionel Taylor, Frank Lauterbur, LaVern Torgeson, Paul Lanham, Charlie Waller, Bill Hickman, Bud Carson, Max Coley.*

## PREDICTION 1st

**G**eorge Allen working for Carroll Rosenbloom!

Carroll Rosenbloom bossing George Allen!

Present are all the ingredients for one of the great studies in human behavior.

Here we have two tremendous egos trying to pull together, when by all that is natural they must try to pull apart.

It boils down to this wonderful morsel: Can George Allen turn himself inside out and become a puppet coach for Carroll Rosenbloom?

The character of George Allen always has been that he must be the stick that stirs the drink at any place he has coached.

But on the Rams only Carroll Rosenbloom can be the stick that stirs the drink.

It ought to be interesting . . . fun . . . maybe amusing . . . perhaps hilarious . . . probably volatile.

Did not Dan Reeves, the Rams' late owner once declare: "It was more fun losing than it is winning with George Allen?"

Did not Edwin Bennett Williams, boss of the Redskins, once state: "We gave George Allen an unlimited budget and he exceeded it?"

From all his public statements since returning to the Rams, Allen means to be able to work for—under—Rosenbloom.

"This is the first time in my coaching career when I don't have to do a rebuilding job," Allen said.

That is so true. Allen, with his unorthodox ways, had to create the Rams into winners the first tour in L.A. Then he had to build the Redskins from scratch at the start of his seven-year exile in Washington.



PAT HADEN (11) has established himself as Los Angeles' No. 1 quarterback.

But now, now, he inherits from Chuck Knox a team which won five successive divisional titles. And zero NFC championships.

Rosenbloom yearns so much for another Super Bowl team.

So it was he who grew disenchanted with Knox. As owner, he nagged for an open-style offense. But Knox, a close-to-the-vest conservative, would not open up the offense.

A year ago Knox tired of the owner's interference. He initiated clandestine maneuvering to escape Rosenbloom and his long-term contract and go to Detroit. The Lions wanted him. But Rosenbloom bridled and said the Lions were trying to steal his coach. He would not let Knox free, spoke of having him coach for perpetuity. He gave Knox a new automatically renewing contract. And the Rams again were so powerful they won their division for the fifth time in Knox' five years. They won even though the great gambit to get Joe Namath boomerranged on them. They were 10-4 and went into the playoffs again. There, again, they were knocked out, again by

the Vikings, but a bitter score of 14-7.

Rosenbloom bristled in a characteristic tempest. The day after the playoff loss he started greasing the way out for Knox. Knox wanted to go, get out of the ugly LA scene. But this time Detroit no longer wanted him. Via the good offices of an intermediary, Knox was shoveled off to Buffalo.

Meanwhile, there was disenchantment with Allen in the inner sanctum of the Redskins. Williams started greasing the way out for Allen.

So it was the merger between Rosenbloom and Allen was made.

But George Allen was told he must behave himself, do what Rosenbloom wanted.

That meant no more trading-of-draft-choice monkeyshines for George Allen. That meant no more collection of fossil and relic players for an Over the Hill Gang for Allen.

Allen, biting a bullet, said all the proper words. He would give Rosenbloom the electrifying, razzle-dazzle offense. Perhaps.

"We will have a multiple of-



fense," said Allen, whose offense in Washington was more close-to-the-vest than Knox', if such conservatism is humanly possible. "But I still think defense is important. We will have to improve the special teams on the Rams."

Allen also said, trying to sound contrite: "It is a misconception that I have to have older players. Sure, we had older players when we were here before and our Over the Hill Gang in Washington received a lot of publicity, but those two situations were different. The teams were down and we did what we had to do to win."

"The key is do what you have to do to win. It doesn't matter whether the players are old or young or middle-aged. The most important thing this year is for everyone to be pulling from the same end of the rope, pulling together."

The implication? That he and Carroll would be pulling together. But that Carroll would be directing the tugging.

So it was that for the first time

in the memory of the aged, a team coached by George Allen had early-round draft choices. Indeed, Allen's Rams had five choices in the first three rounds—Elvis Peacock in the first, Stan Johnson and Ron Smith in the second, Frank Corral and Leon White in the third. It was, of course characteristic, that the two extra choices—Johnson and Corral—went to the Rams on draft picks that George Allen himself had traded to them from the Redskins. One of the little ironies of George Allen. But then, the same George Allen once had been fined for trading the same future draft choice away twice.

This time with his ready-built team Allen could go back to the Super Bowl. The Rams have long been a formidable team. All Allen has to do is guide the Rams through the playoffs, which Knox could never do.

Allen promises to do just that: "If things break right, if we don't have any damaging injuries."

"We're going to run out of multiple sets and our goals are to be more explosive and less

predictable," Allen said.

This is what Rosenbloom wants—and maybe he'll get it.

To run this multiple offense, the Rams have their Rhode Scholar quarterback, Pat Haden. Haden now is secure in his job. In Knox' years, the Rams won their five titles with four different quarterbacks. Haden was the only one of these to win two. He began last year benched for the creaky-kneed Namath, whose abilities had faded so much the job was taken away after four games. Haden got it back and became the No. 2 quarterback in the conference behind Roger Staubach.

Allen has an aversion to young QBs—and Haden is 25. But the young scholar at Oxford obviously has the smarts to play the game of football. He also has scrambling ability.

Behind Haden, the Rams have only Vince Ferragamo, a seldom-used second-year player. So basically, Allen does not have his blessed experience at quarterback.

There is super speed at re-

LAWRENCE McCUTCHEON (30) of the Rams has gained 1,000 yards rushing in four of his first five NFL campaigns.



WENDELL TYLER (26), behind a block by TOM MACK (65), is one of Los Angeles Rams' multi-talented running backs.



ceiver to give the Rams the desired break-open dimension. Harold Jackson long has been one of the league's top burners. He had 48 catches last year. The loss of Ron Jessie last year was particularly damaging to the Rams' offense. Jessie is now back and is a brilliant receiver. Behind the starters are Bill Waddy, who also can burn, Freeman Scales, and Ron Smith, the second-round rookie.

There are expert tight ends with Terry Nelson and Charles Young. Nelson has developed into a big-play player.

The Rams have so many good running backs they will have to shave some of them. There is the bulling, fast Lawrence McCutcheon, four-times a Thousand-Yard runner with 1,238 last year. His duels on the Coast with O.J. Simpson could be immense. With McCutcheon, the Rams have John Cappelletti, Cullen Bryant, Rod Phillips, Wendell Tyler and Rob Scribner. Cappelletti is the likely starter. But the others all could be starters for other teams. The depth is so much it was surprising the Rams drafted Peacock of Oklahoma on the first round. He must be regarded as a possible starter.

The line is veteran and savvy, but some times it does get man-handled. Returning intact are tackles Doug France and John Williams, guards Tom Mack and Dennis Harrah and center Rich Saul. The Rams also have veteran Dan Ryczek, Rick Nuzum and Donnie Hickman. From high in the draft they added Leon White.

Despite all the prattle about offense, Allen is a defense-oriented coach. Always before he couldn't care less about the offense and preferred to watch hammer-and-tongs defense. He has that with the Rams, one of the best defenses in the NFC.

The line is sharp on the pass rush, stingy in playing the run. Jack Youngblood and Fred Dryer pressure from the outside. Larry Brooks is talented at tackle. Cody Jones last year filled in adequately as the successor to Merlin Olsen. Mike Fanning challenges Jones now. The Rams also have Al Cowlings and Stan

Johnson, the rookie picked up on a second-round choice gained when Allen was trading them away in Washington.

It is Allen's style to use bludgeoning linebackers. These, too, he inherited in brilliant abundance. Isaiah Robertson is a bona-fide star on the outside, adept at covering the run and pass. Hack-saw Jack Reynolds is a top middle linebacker, presumably happy again after contractual problems sidelined him half of last year. Jim Youngblood plays the other outside position. There is excellent depth with Bob Brudzinski, Kevin McLain and Bob Pifferini.

Twenty-five pass interceptions was the record of the Rams' outstanding secondary last year. This group has three top stars in cornerback Monte Jackson, free safety Bill Simpson and strong safety Dave Elmendorf. Jackson and Simpson are expert interception artists. Pat Thomas is the other cornerback. The defensive back regulars are backed by Rod Perry, Jackie Wallace and Nolan Cromwell.

Allen has a fetish about the kicking game—and with justifica-

tion. Kicking was a problem of the Rams even in the five title years. The incumbents are place kicker Rafael Septien and punter Glen Walker. But Corral does both with exceptional talent and should win a job, perhaps doing double duty.

The Rams have all the talent necessary to get to the Super Bowl. Rosenbloom has been there before. Allen has been there before.

The major question is can they get along well enough to get there together?

## RAMS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs.	College
90	Brooks, Larry	DT	6-3	255	27	7	Va. State
	Brown, Carlos	QB	6-3	210	26	4	Pacific
59	Brudzinski, Bob	LB	6-4	230	22	2	Ohio St.
32	Bryant, C.	RB-KR	6-1	235	26	6	Colorado
22	Cappelletti, John	RB	6-1	217	25	5	Penn St.
44	Collins, Sonny	RB	6-1	196	24	2	Kentucky
70	Cowlings, Al	DE-DT	6-5	245	30	8	Sou. Calif.
21	Cromwell, Nolan	S	6-1	196	22	2	Kansas
89	Dryer, Fred	DE	6-6	240	31	10	S. Diego St.
55	Eckert, Carl	LB	6-3	220	23	3	S. Jose St.
42	Elmendorf, Dave	S	6-1	195	28	8	Texas A&M
79	Fanning, Mike	DT	6-6	260	24	4	Notre Dame
15	Ferragamo, V.	QB	6-3	208	23	2	Nebraska
77	France, Doug	T	6-5	272	24	4	Ohio St.
18	Gabriel, Roman	QB	6-4	225	38	17	N.C. State
11	Haden, Pat	QB	5-11	182	24	3	So. Calif.
60	Harrah, Dennis	G	6-5	257	24	4	Miami (Fla.)
73	Hill, Winston	T	6-4	272	36	16	Texas So.
63	Horton, Greg	G	6-4	245	26	3	Colorado
29	Jackson, Harold	WR	5-10	175	31	11	Jackson St.
28	Jackson, Monte	CB	5-11	189	24	4	S. Diego St.
81	Jessie, Ron	WR	6-0	185	29	8	Kansas
43	Jodat, Jim	RB	5-11	210	23	2	Carthage
88	Johns, Freeman	WR	6-1	175	24	2	SMU
76	Jones, Cody	DT-DE	6-5	240	26	5	S. Jose St.
46	Joyce, Terry	P	6-3	230	33	3	Mo. Southern
65	Mack, Tom	G	6-3	250	24	13	Michigan
30	McCutcheon, L.	RB	6-1	205	27	6	Colorado St.
50	McLain, Kevin	LB	6-2	227	23	3	Colorado St.
82	Miller, Willie	WR	5-9	172	30	3	Colorado St.
83	Nelson, Terry	TE	6-2	230	26	5	Ark. A&M
51	Nuzum, Rick	C	6-4	238	25	2	Kentucky
49	Perry, Rod	CB	5-9	170	24	4	Colorado
39	Phillips, Rod	RB	6-0	220	25	4	Jackson St.
54	Pifferini, Bob	LB	6-2	226	27	6	UCLA
64	Reynolds, Jack	LB	6-1	232	30	9	Tennessee
58	Robertson, Isaiah	LB	6-3	225	28	8	Southern
	Ryczek, Dan	C	6-3	250	28	5	Virginia
61	Saul, Rich	C	6-3	250	29	9	Mich. State
87	Scales, D.	WR-KR	6-2	170	24	3	Grambling
33	Scribner, Rob	RB	6-0	200	26	5	UCLA
1	Septien, Rafael	K	5-9	171	24	2	SW La.
48	Simpson, Bill	S	6-1	180	26	5	Michigan St.
78	Slater, Jackie	G	6-4	270	23	3	Jackson St.
27	Thomas, Pat	CB	5-9	180	23	3	Texas A&M
26	Tyler, W.	RB-KR	5-10	188	22	2	UCLA
80	Waddy, Billy	WR-KR	5-11	185	23	2	Colorado
19	Walker, Glen	P-K	6-1	210	25	2	So. Calif.
20	Wallace, J.	S-CB	6-3	198	26	5	Arizona
75	Williams, John	T	6-3	265	32	11	Minnesota
86	Young, Charles	TE	6-4	235	26	6	So. Calif.
85	Youngblood, J.	DE	6-4	242	27	8	Florida
53	Youngblood, Jim	LB	6-3	239	27	6	Tenn. Tech

## 1977 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Septien, 86 points on 32 XP, 18 field goals	3rd
<b>RUSHING</b> —McCutcheon, 294 carries for 1238 yds., 4.2 Avg., 7 TDs	2nd
<b>PASSING</b> —Haden, 122 of 216 attempts for 1551 yds., 11 TDs	2nd
<b>RECEIVING</b> —H. Jackson, 48 receptions for 666 yds., 13.9 Avg. 6 TDs	4th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Simpson, 6 for 157 yds., 26.2 Avg.	2nd
<b>PUNTING</b> —Walker, 73 punts, 35.2 Avg., longest 56 yds.	14th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Waddy, 31 for 219 yds., 7.1 Avg.	11th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Tyler, 24 for 523 yds., 21.8 Avg.	16th

## Pre-season Games

Aug. 5	NEW ENGLAND (N)
12	SAN DIEGO (N)
17	AT Seattle (N)
26	AT Oakland (6 pm)

1978 SCHEDULE	1977 Scores
Sept. 3	AT Philadelphia 10 am 20-0
10	ATLANTA 23-7
17	DALLAS —
24	AT Houston 11 am —
Oct. 1	AT New Orleans 11 am 26-27
8	SAN FRANCISCO 34-14
15	AT Minnesota 35-3
22	NEW ORLEANS 14-7
30	AT Atlanta 6 pm 6-17
Nov. 5	TAMPA BAY 31-0
12	PITTSBURGH 5 pm —
19	AT San Francisco 23-10
26	AT Cleveland 10 am 9-0
Dec. 3	AT NY Giants 10 am —
11	CINCINNATI 6 pm —
17	GREEN BAY 24-6

## DRAFTTEES

Round	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	
9	Anderson, Andre	DE	6-5	259	22	New Mex. St.
12	Coppens, Gus	T	6-5	270	22	UCLA
3	Corral, Frank	K-P	6-2	213	22	UCLA
7	Doss, Reggie	DE	6-4	256	21	Hampton
11	Hostetler, Ron	LB	6-2	220	22	Penn St.
2	Johnson, Stan	DT	6-4	275	22	Tenn. St.
4	Manges, Mark	QB	6-2	210	21	Maryland
1	Peacock, Elvis	RB	6-1	220	21	Oklahoma
10	Peal, Charles	T	6-4	264	21	Indiana
2	Smith, Ron	WR	6-0	190	21	S. Diego St.
3	White, Leon	C	6-3	261	22	Colorado

## FREE AGENTS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
57	Caudill, Barry	C	6-3	228	23	So. Miss.
72	Fowler, Doug	T	6-5	260	23	Pomona
68	Fulton, Ed	G	6-3	250	23	Maryland
66	Hickman, Donnie	G	6-2	261	22	So. Calif.
9	Lee, Danny	P	6-2	200	24	NE La.
25	Royall, Curtis	CB	6-0	190	25	USIU
37	Simmons, Elmo	RB	6-0	195	23	Arlington
93	Tennigkeit, Tim	DE	6-5	240	23	UCLA
62	Williams, Jeff	T	6-4	256	23	Rhode Is.



# SAN FRANCISCO 49ers

**PETE McCULLY, Coach.**  
*Assistants: Floyd Reese, Dan Radakovich, Fred O'Connor, Earl Leggett, Mike White, Les Steckel, Frank Gansz, Jimmy Carr.*

## PREDICTION 2nd

The majordomos of pro football have learned to love their luxury as much as their superstars. So it was they were meeting in Palm Springs last March. Joe Thomas, trying to recreate the 49ers in his own image, found himself sitting next to Chuck Knox, on his first assignment with the Buffalo Bills.

"What about O.J. Simpson?" mused Thomas, a debonair man with a shrewdness about him. "He says he wants to play on the West Coast."

"I know," said Knox. "He'd be available for the right price."

Thomas might have gulped or maybe he just felt like gulping—or grinning.

"Let's talk about it," he said in what seemed a conspiratorial whisper.

"OK," said Knox.

Trades are made either in smoke-filled rooms, hotel lobbies or on the telephone. It took 10 days of negotiating in all these ways. Then O.J. Simpson was allowed to leave Buffalo, which he abhorred, and was happily permitted to go home. For once O.J. ran through the airport for real.

The year's most vital trade in pro football earnestly catapulted the 49ers into a position in which they could win an immediate title. Joe Thomas, who sacked two coaches in two years in San Francisco, had created his newest team in his own image.

The lucky recipient of Thomas' trading skill is Pete McCulley, another new San Francisco coach. His name was unknown until Thomas hired him off the staff of the Colts and made him a head coach. In fact, Thomas will call most of the shots for the 49ers. McCulley will merely carry them out. But when a boss gets you O.J. Simpson to play with you cannot be ungrateful.

Thomas, never rejoiced for his humility, was so proud of his

coup in getting Simpson he openly divulged the details of his strategy.

"Chuck Knox indicated what he wanted and I told him there was no way we would give up what he was asking for," Thomas said. "For one thing, he wanted our first draft pick this year. I said there was no way because we had the seventh pick overall and we would not give that away. I also told him I didn't want to give away any of our football players."

"I said once we establish those two things, then maybe we can do more talking. That's when he said he wanted to think about it and discuss it further the following morning."

"I told Chuck we didn't want to go any further until we saw O.J.'s contract because that was an important consideration. But after looking it over, we decided it was properly structured for us to handle."

"We were very close on the trade at that stage. The only thing we were going back and forth on was that last draft choice. We bounced back and forth and after a few exchanges Chuck finally said if he could get one particular pick the deal was on. I said, 'you got it, let's go.'"

"When we got that close, I wasn't going to let a draft choice three years away get in the way."

So O.J. went home to give the 49ers the most exciting running

O.J. SIMPSON (32) is the 49ers big new hope for a division championship.



in football for five draft choices scattered over 1978, 1979 and 1980.

"Actually, the trade was completed much faster than a lot of other trades I've made," Thomas said.

Simpson, who collects a reported \$733,000, is not regarded as damaged goods. He had a knee injury which kept him from playing part of last year. But surgery has healed the knee.

So he was a bargain for the 49ers in their pursuit of the Rams, winners of the West title the last five years.

Did Thomas bamboozle Knox? On the surface it may appear that way. But Buffalo is building from scratch—and the draft choices will help the Bills very much. And one great factor overlooked: Knox coached the Rams to those five titles, then was dumped. He carries a painful grudge against the Rams, and he would love to see them beaten.

That much this year is unlikely for the 49ers. They were 5-9 last year under Ken Meyer despite an outstanding pass rush defense. Meyer became coach when Joe Thomas arrived—and the incumbent Monte Clark refused to sacrifice his authority to the new general manager. Thomas obviously used Meyer as a stopgap coach in the emergency. Then he brought in his own men, McCulley for this year.

"The place the 49ers have to make some improvements is in the passing game," McCulley said, figuring the club has the most potent running attainable. "You make the big play with the passing game. You win in the NFL with a passing game. I believe in balance, but I also believe in utilizing the big play when the opportunity presents itself. I like to see some action out there and I want a hard-nosed running attack, but I want the big play, too."

The words are not calculated to be sweet music to Simpson. O.J. squawked in Buffalo when he didn't run as often as he would like to have early in his career.

But when you have O.J. you tend to use him to the point of fatigue.

The swiftie Thomas incidentally fit into the big-play theme by outtalking Knox so the 49ers could keep their top draft choice this year. With that seventh selection in the draft Thomas grabbed Ken MacAfee, the acrobatic tight end out of Notre Dame. He was one of two first-round draft choices for San Francisco. The other was Dan Bunz, a linebacker obtained on a first-round choice obtained when he swapped Delvin Williams, made expendable by O.J., from Miami.

It was the most clever working of a draft-trade jigsaw puzzle imaginable.

The big-play concept works out as a challenge by Coach McCulley to Jim Plunkett. The veteran quarterback never has been what everybody thought he would be when he came out of college eight years ago. He has never been a winner. Too often he has been a shabby passer. But the promise is still there with the strong arm.

Now the 49ers are unique in football. They have two guys who were first off the board in two different drafts—Plunkett and Simpson—playing in one backfield.

It is enough to make football romanticists drool.

But for it to work Plunkett must throw more touchdown passes and fewer interceptions, be more forceful on the field, develop a winning touch.

Behind Plunkett at quarterback the 49ers have Scott Bull, who has started some games when experiments were necessary.

Plunkett has a big-play pass catcher to help him fulfill McCulley's ideal. Gene Washington goes down field and catches the ball as well as anybody in the league. But Gene has not thrived since Plunkett arrived in trade from New England before

KEN MacAFEE (81), Notre Dame All-American, was 49ers' No. 1 draft choice.





Thomas, two years ago. Last year he caught only 32 passes. On the other side, there are Kenny Harrison, Willie McGee and Jim Lash to compete for work. Each is a suitable target.

The drafting of the hulking MacAfee was a big of legerdemain. Now the 49ers have a tight end comparable to Dave Casper, from across the Bay in Oakland, the town that San Francisco fans have to envy. MacAfee does everything the textbook tight end does and he does it with sparkle. And there is depth, too much—Tom Mitchell, himself outstanding, Jim Obradovich and Paul Seal.

The running, well, it could not be better with the Juice and dashing Wilber Jackson. But O.J. is used to having a power blocker for him. Jackson is not that type. In addition the 49ers have Bob Ferrell, Paul Hofer and Dave Williams. Delvin Williams has been a Thousand-Yard runner and gained 931 last year, but there was no way he could be used in the same unit with O.J. Delvin would have simmered and fumed. They could not be compatible.

The offensive line is something

CEDRIC HARDMAN (86) is 49ers' top defensive end and pass rusher.



that must be improved. The returnees are Jean Barrett and Keith Fahnhorst at tackle, Steve Lawson and Woody Peoples at guard, Randy Cross at center, and Johnny Miller, John Ayers and Ron Singleton in reserve. This group permitted the quarterbacks to be sacked 36 times last year. With this in mind, the 49ers drafted two linemen on the second and third rounds, Walt Downing from Michigan and Ernie Hughes from Notre Dame.

The 49ers have a pass rush defense which belies opposing quarterbacks with Cleveland Elam and Cedrick Hardman. They rush together. On the other side, the 49ers have Jimmy Webb and Tony Cline. In the background are Ed Galigher and Bill Cooke.

The linebacking needs to be upgraded. The returnees are Bruce Elia in the middle with Skip Vanderbunt and Willie Harper outside. Ed Bradley and Mike Baldassin are the returning reserves.

The secondary rates fair with Bruce Taylor and Tony Leonard at the corners and Mel Phillips

and Eddie Lewis at safety. Veteran Al Mathews, seeking to become a starter again, Stan Black and Eddie Lewis are reserve defensive backs.

The kicking is OK with Ray Wersching a long-range field goal man who is also accurate on extra points. Dave Wittum should be able to make his punts longer.

In 32 years, the San Francisco fans have been so pained without a championship they have thrown garbage at their heroes in frustration. But in a year or two they will have a winner. Joe Thomas has made enemies every place he has operated—but he also built winning teams.

#### 49ERS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
68	Ayers, John	T	6-5	247	24	1	W. Tex. St.
41	Baldassin, Mike	LB	6-1	218	22	R	Washington
77	Barrett, Jean	T	6-6	250	26	5	Tulsa
26	Black, Stan	S	6-0	196	21	R	Miss. State
54	Bradley, Ed	LB	6-1	225	27	6	Wake Forest
19	Bull, Scott	QB	6-5	215	24	2	Arkansas
28	Burns, Mike	CB	6-0	181	23	R	So. Calif.
82	Cline, Tony	DE	6-2	237	29	8	Miami (Fla.)
76	Cooke, Bill	DT-DE	6-6	243	26	3	Mass.
51	Cross, Randy	C	6-3	250	23	2	UCLA
17	Deberg, Steve	QB	6-2	205	23	R	S. Jose St.
72	Elam, Cleveland	DT	6-4	251	25	3	Tenn. St.
55	Elia, Bruce	LB	6-1	220	24	3	Ohio St.
71	Fahnhorst, Keith	T	6-6	263	25	4	Minnesota
38	Farrell, Bob	RB	6-0	219	24	2	UCLA
75	Galigher, Ed	DT	6-5	247	27	6	UCLA
86	Hardman, C.	DE	6-4	244	28	8	N. Tex. St.
59	Harper, Willie	LB	6-2	295	27	5	Nebraska
83	Harrison, Kenny	WR	6-0	164	23	2	SMU
53	Hart, Tommy	DE	6-4	246	32	10	Mor. Brown
36	Hofer, Paul	RB	6-0	193	25	2	Mississippi
40	Jackson, Wilbur	RB	6-1	213	25	4	Alabama
87	Lash, Jim	WR	6-2	200	25	5	No. western
65	Lawson, Steve	G	6-3	257	28	7	Kansas
42	Leonard, A.	KR-CB	5-11	165	24	2	Va. Union
22	Lewis, Eddie	CB	5-10	174	23	2	Kansas
47	Mathews, Al	CB	5-10	190	30	8	Texas A&I
81	McGee, Willie	WR	5-11	178	27	5	Alcorn St.
49	McGill, Ralph	PR-S	5-11	180	27	6	Tulsa
66	Miller, Johnny	G	6-1	247	23	1	Livingstone
84	Mitchell, Tom	TE	6-4	226	33	11	Bucknell
89	Obradovich, Jim	TE	6-2	227	24	3	So. Cal.
69	Peoples, Woody	G	6-2	250	34	9	Grambling
32	Phillips, Mel	S	6-2	185	35	12	N.C. A&T
16	Plunkett, Jim	QB	6-2	207	29	7	Stanford
85	Seal, Paul	TE	6-4	223	25	4	Michigan
32	Simpson, O.J.	RB	6-1	215	31	10	So. Calif.
67	Singleton, Ron	T	6-7	275	25	2	Grambling
58	Stidham, Howard	LB	6-2	214	22	1	Tenn. Tech
44	Taylor, Bruce	CB	6-0	178	29	8	Boston U.
52	Vanderbunt, S.	LB	6-3	225	30	9	Oregon St.
18	Washington, G.	WR	6-1	180	30	9	Stanford
74	Webb, Jimmy	DT	6-5	245	25	3	Miss. St.
14	Wersching, Ray	K	5-11	210	27	5	California
30	Williams, Dave	RB	6-2	200	23	R	Colorado
24	Williams, Delvin	RB	6-0	195	26	4	Kansas
13	Wittum, Tom	P	6-1	198	27	5	N. Illinois

#### 1977 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Del Williams, 54 points on 9 touchdowns		T. 9th
<b>RUSHING</b> —Del Williams, 269 carries for 934 yds., 3.5 Avg., 7 TDs		5th
<b>PASSING</b> —Plunkett, 128 of 248 attempts for 1693 yds., 6.83 Avg., 9 TDs		8th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Washington, G., 32 receptions for 638 yds., 19.9 Avg., 5 TDs		22nd
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Washington, D., 2 for 68 yds., 34.0 Avg.		37th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Wittum, 77 punts, 36.4 Avg., longest 54 yds.		13th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Leonard, 22 for 154 yds., 7.0 Avg.		13th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Hofer, 36 for 863 yds., 24.0 Avg.		9th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug.	5 AT Dallas (N)
	12 SEATTLE (N)
	20 OAKLAND
	25 AT Buffalo (N)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3 AT Cleveland	—
	10 CHICAGO	—
	17 AT Houston	—
	24 AT N.Y. Giants	4 pm 17-20
Oct.	1 CINCINNATI	—
	8 AT Los Angeles	14-34
	15 NEW ORLEANS	20-17
	22 ATLANTA	0-7
	29 AT Washington	—
Nov.	5 AT Atlanta	10-3
	12 ST. LOUIS	—
	19 LOS ANGELES	10-23
	27 PITTSBURGH	6 pm 0-27
Dec.	3 AT New Orleans	10-7
	10 TAMPA BAY	20-10
	17 AT Detroit	28-7

#### 1977 Scores

#### DRAFTTEES

Round	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	MacAfee, Ken	TE	6-4	250	21
	Bunz, Dan	LB	6-4	230	22
2	Downing, Walt	G	6-3	254	21
3	Hughes, Ernie	G	6-3	250	22
	Le Count, Terry	WR	5-10	172	21
	Reese, Achile	DT	6-3	263	21
	Threadgill, B.	DB	6-0	190	21
6	Walker, Elliott	RB	5-11	193	21
	Quillan, Fred	C	6-5	240	21
	Redden, Herman	DB	6-2	190	21
	Moore, Dean	LB	6-2	210	22
	McDaniels, Steve	T	6-6	276	22
10	Connell, Mike	P	6-1	200	21
	McCray, Willie	DE	6-5	234	24
11	Irons, Dan	T	6-7	260	23

#### ROOKIES

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
41	Baldassin, Mike	LB	6-1	218	22	Washington
26	Black, Stan	S	6-0	196	21	Miss. State
28	Burns, Mike	CB	6-0	181	23	So. Calif.
72	Elam, Cleveland	DT	6-4	251	25	S. Jose St.
30	Williams, Dave	RB	6-2	200	23	Colorado

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# ATLANTA FALCONS

**LEEMAN BENNETT, Coach.**  
*Assistants: John North, Ted Plumb, Jim Champion, Jerry Glanville, Doug Shively, Bill Walsh, Mike McDonnell, Dick Wood.*

## PREDICTION 3rd

**O**RGANIZATION! It took a dozen years of trial and error . . . 12 years of sacking coaches and juggling general managers . . . of flunking with this idea and then that. Now, at long last, the Atlanta Falcons are organized. They are a team with this necessity to winning football called organization.

It means a program, a system, a working scheme. So many teams lack these qualities of harmony. Without organization there is unchecked chaos.

A year ago the Falcons decided to quit the goofing around which had characterized their team since its expansion inception in 1966. Eddie LeBaron, the old bantam quarterback, was hired to be general manager by Rankin Smith, the owner. Leeman Bennett was hired to be the coach, the fifth in the franchise's brief existence. They meshed.

So it was the Falcons had the best team—not the best record at 7-7—but the finest quality team they ever had. LeBaron did it as a rookie general manager. Bennett did it as a rookie coach.

At the year's start, Bennett was an unknown coach, a second-choice coach. At the year's end, he was the NFC coach of the year simply because his team had improved so much.

Now in 1978 he is the dean of coaches in the Western Division. His 7-7 record made him the only coach in the division who held onto his job after last year.

"The players responded very well," Bennett said. "I felt for them to be consistent as a team I first had to be consistent as a person."

He is an even-tempered man with a great deal of coaching expertise. All he lacked when he started last year was head coaching experience. Those who had known him for any time during

his years of assistant coaching apprenticeship knew he had coaching potential.

Now the second season—probably the most difficult for any coach. The newness has gone. The players know the coach. The coach knows the players. When they have improved sharply in the first year, pro football's theory of relativity comes into force. A 7-7 record represented pronounced improvement simply because the team had been so woe-ful before. In the Falcons case they were 4-10 before Bennett came along. But now there has been a hint of success and a second break-even season—it would be 8-8 with the new schedule arrangement—would be disappointing. It is a relative thing; coaches who start to climb must continue to climb or they become ex-coaches.

Bennett understands this theory of relativity and states it this way: "It's gong to be more difficult since the element of surprise will be missing. However, our plan has not changed. We want to build a consistent football team that is always capable of playing for the title."

"Last season was important be-

cause we needed to establish a positive attitude and create the feeling of having a chance to win every time we lined up."

The Falcons managed to lick two playoff teams. And they possessed an incredible defensive record. Their defense permitted only 129 points during the season. That was the fewest a team ever allowed during the 18 years pro football played a 14-game schedule. The record had been held, at 133 points, by the first Minnesota team to go to a Super Bowl in 1969.

"We were very proud of our defensive record, and everybody contributed. The defense did a whale of a job in stopping the opposition, the offense did not turn the ball over often, and the special teams did an excellent job of leaving the defense with good field position."

So the idea this year is to keep the defense just as good—and make the offense better. While the defense restricted the enemy to 129 points, the offense could score only 50 points more than that, far short of what a winning team requires. It gave up just 15 touchdowns, but could score only 20.

But maybe the Falcons—LeBaron and Bennett—are building offense in the correct way. They are not grabbing the super-glitter collegians who run and throw. Instead they go into the trenches and find blockers. The theory is that any back with decent speed can run behind superior blockers. Any quarterback with pass protection has time to throw to his targets.

For the second straight year the new Atlanta organization has drafted an offensive lineman on the first round. This year it was the extremely promising Mike Kenn out of Michigan. Last year the top choice was Warren Bryant. Bryant became a starter on an extremely young line.

LEEMAN BENNETT guided Atlanta to improved 7-7 record last season.





STEVE BARTKOWSKI has been plagued by many injuries. WILSON FAUMINA (74) has excellent size and quickness.

"I feel you build with big people," Bennett said. "And people like Kenn and Bryant are going to be the foundation of our football team for years to come." Kenn is 6-6 and 257, Bryant is 6-6 and 270.

The key to offensive betterment is, though, Steve Bartkowski. He is the prominent young quarterback in the NFC. But so far in his brief career he has not been able to hold up over an entire schedule. He missed the first half of last season and most of the year before with knee trouble. When Bartkowski did return last year at the halfway spot of the schedule, he was rusty and inaccurate. Before he can become a winning quarterback, he must learn to throw more touchdown passes to teammates and fewer passes to the other team. He is a fourth-year quarterback now, time for a young passer to touch his potential.

Behind Bartkowski, the Falcons come back with Scott Hunter, who has been passed around from club to club. Hunter did well enough in Bartkowski's absence last year.

It is really a no-name offense that Atlanta has, largely because the Falcons always have rested in the dregs of the league.

Alfred Jenkins is the top receiver with Wallace Francis on

the other side. Jenkins led with 39 catches last year. Does anybody know he has caught at least one pass in the Falcons' last 40 games? For receiving depth the Falcons have Karl Farmer and Billy Ryckman.

Jim Mitchell is a splendid tight end who had an offseason last year.

The running is not spectacular but it could be. Bubba Bean comes back after missing the entire year. He can be a breakaway stylist with proper blocking. Haske Stanback has been the power man in the backfield. He gained 873 yards last year, a formidable total, and added 261 coming out of the backfield on 30 pass receptions. Also on the squad is Woody Thompson, who was a starter last year and is scrambling to retain his designation. In reserve, the Falcons have Secedrick McIntyre, Mike Esposito, Monroe Eley, Billy Pritchett and Dave Farmer.

The line will continue extremely young and will be getting better. The protection really wasn't that good last year. Bryant played starting tackle and R.C. Thielemann starting guard as rookies. The other returning veterans are Brent Adams at tackle, Dave Scott at guard and Jeff Van Note at center. Kenn is sure to become a starter. Injuries did

rack the line last year—and in the Washington game, a 10-6 loss, the Falcons started a line with a total of 16 years pro experience. Across the line on Washington's defensive line Ron McDole had 17 years experience all by himself. Atlanta has Paul Ryczek, Len Gotshalk and Phil McKinnely for veteran reservists and drafted Stan Waldemore on the third round in hopes of finding a second rookie to put into the building process.

The stingy defense set some notable records last year in addition to the league mark of 129 points allowed over the 14 games. Led by the menacing Claude Humphrey, the Falcons' defenders got to enemy passers 42 times and the club intercepted 26 passes. Both were the most in club history.

The pass rush is awesome. Humphrey has suffered on this team through most of its existence and last year was so frustrated he begged to be traded. The Falcons refused and Humphrey at last enjoyed the season because he loves the action when it's good. He provides the outside rush with Jeff Morrow coming in from the opposite side. Jim Bailey and Mike Lewis handle the inside positions on the line. The reservists are Edgar Fields, Wilson Faumina and Jeff Yeates.



There are no ornate names in the linebacking corps, but the group is solid. Ralph Ortega returns as middle linebacker with Greg Brezina and Fulton Kuykendall on the outside. Robert Pennywell, Andy Spiva, Ron McCartney and Rick Kay are the returning backup veterans. Steve Stewart was drafted on the second round and Brian Cabral on the fourth in the search for improvement.

With the stern pass rush, the secondary has passes falling into its hands. The star of the secondary is Rolland Lawrence, the cornerback. He intercepted seven last year. Rick Byas plays the other corner and Ray Easterling is a force with a specialty of safety blitzes. Tom Moriarty is likely going to move into the strong safety spot. Frank Reed is in reserve.

The kicking is well taken care of. John James had a 41.4-yard punting average which does not speak of his pinpoint accuracy on the vital coffin corner kicks. He booted 21 punts out of bounds inside the 20 last year. Fred Steinforth is a young place kicker who joined the Falcons at midyear last season and did a strong job.

"We built a base last year," said organization man Bennett.

HASKEL STANBACK led Atlanta Falcons in scoring and rushing last year.



WARREN BRYANT became starter for the Falcons as a rookie in 1977.



R.C. THIELEMAN also started as a rookie for the Falcons last season.

"Now we must continue to grow. The newness has worn off, the opponents have an idea what to expect."

This is basically a young team of unlimited promise. But still it is outmanned in many places in this division.

"There are no magic formulas for experience," said Bennett.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Stanback, 36 points on 6 touchdown runs	T. 24th
<b>RUSHING</b> —Stanback, 247 carries for 873 yds., 3.5 Avg., 6 TDs	6th
<b>PASSING</b> —Hunter, 70 of 151 attempts for 898 yds., 2 TDs	17th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Jenkins, 39 receptions for 677 yds., 17.4 Avg., 4 TDs	11th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Lawrence, 7 for 138 yds., 19.7 Avg.	1st
<b>PUNTING</b> —James, 105 punts, 41.4 Avg., longest 61 yds.	2nd
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Lawrence, 51 for 352 yds., 6.9 Avg.	14th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Farmer, 21 for 419 yds., 20.0 Avg.	18th
<b>Pre-season Games</b>	
Aug. 7 AT N.Y. Jets (N)	
12 AT Pittsburgh (N)	
19 PHILADELPHIA	
24 AT Tampa Bay 4 pm	17-10

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 HOUSTON	—
10 AT Los Angeles	7-23
17 CLEVELAND	—
24 AT Tampa Bay 4pm	17-10
Oct. 1 N.Y. GIANTS	17-3
8 AT Pittsburgh	—
15 DETROIT	17-6
22 AT San Francisco	7-0
30 LOS ANGELES (N)	17-6
Nov. 5 SAN FRANCISCO	3-10
12 AT New Orleans	20-21
19 AT Chicago	16-10
26 NEW ORLEANS	35-7
Dec. 3 AT Cincinnati	—
10 WASHINGTON	6-10
17 AT St. Louis	—

#### 1977 Scores

79 Yeates, Jeff	DT	6-3	248	26	7
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#### FALCONS' VETERAN ROSTER

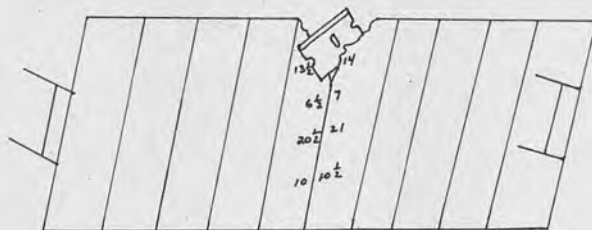
No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
61	Adams, Brent	T	6-5	256	25	4	Chattanooga
72	Bailey, Jim	DE	6-15	260	29	9	Kansas
10	Bartkowski, S.	QB	6-4	213	25	4	California
44	Bean, Bubba	RB	5-11	195	23	3	Texas A&M
50	Brezina, Greg	LB	6-1	221	31	11	Houston
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38	Byas, Rick	DB	5-9	180	27	5	Wayne St.
97	Duggan, James	G	6-2	265	23	1	SMU
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80	Farmer, Karl	WR	5-11	165	23	3	Pittsburgh
74	Faumuina, W.	DT	6-5	275	23	2	S. Jose St.
77	Fields, Edgar	DT-DE	6-2	255	23	2	Texas A&M
89	Francis, W.	WR	5-11	190	26	6	Ark. AM&N
65	Gotshalk, Len	T	6-4	259	28	8	Humboldt St.
87	Humphrey, C.	DE	6-5	265	33	11	Tenn. St.
16	Hunter, Scott	QB	6-2	205	30	8	Alabama
	Jackson, Ernie	CB	5-9	176	27	6	Duke
6	James, John	P	6-3	200	28	7	Florida
84	Jenkins, Alfred	WR	5-10	172	25	4	Mor. Brown
14	Jones, June	QB	6-4	200	24	2	Portland
67	Jordan, Bob	T	6-6	260	22	2	Memphis St.
58	Kay, Rick	LB	6-4	235	28	5	Colorado
54	Kuykendall, F.	LB	6-5	225	24	4	UCLA
22	Lawrence, R.	CB	5-10	179	26	6	Tabor
69	Lewis, Mike	DT	6-4	261	28	8	Ark. AM&N
56	McCartney, Ron	LB	6-1	220	23	2	Tennessee
52	McClain, Dewey	LB	6-3	236	23	3	E. Central U.
88	McCrary, Greg	TE	6-3	230	25	4	Clark
41	McIntyre, S.	RB	5-10	190	23	3	Auburn
73	McKinnely, Phil	T	6-4	248	23	3	UCLA
11	McQuilken, Kim	QB	6-2	203	26	5	Lehigh
75	Morrow, Jeff	DE	6-4	230	24	4	West Va.
86	Mitchell, Jim	TE	6-1	236	30	10	Pr. View
45	Moriarty, Tom	S	6-0	185	24	2	Bowl. Green
55	Ortega, Ralph	LB	6-2	220	24	4	Florida
98	Parrish, Don	DE	6-2	255	22	1	Pittsburgh
59	Pennywell, R.	LB	6-1	222	23	3	Grambling
39	Pritchett, Billy	RB	6-3	230	26	4	W. Tex. St.
28	Reed, Frank	DB	5-11	193	23	3	Washington
82	Ryckman, Billy	WR	5-11	172	22	2	La. Tech
53	Ryzek, Paul	C	6-2	230	25	5	Virginia
70	Scott, Dave	T	6-4	285	24	3	Kansas
51	Spiva, Andy	LB	6-0	210	22	2	Tennessee
24	Stanback, H.	RB	6-0	210	25	5	Tennessee
1	Steinforth, Fred	PK	5-11	180	25	3	Boston Col.
68	Thielemann, R.C.	G-C	6-4	247	22	2	Arkansas
48	Thompson, W.	RB	6-1	228	25	4	Miami
57	Van Note, Jeff	C	6-2	247	31	10	Kentucky
79	Yeates, Jeff	DT	6-3	248	26	7	Boston Col.

#### DRAFTTEES

Round	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	
1	Kenn, Mike	OT	6-6	257	21	Michigan
2	Stewart, Steve	LB	6-2	217	22	Minnesota
3	Waldmore, Stan	OG	6-3	268	22	Nebraska
4	Cabral, Brian	LB	6-0	209	22	Colorado
5	Pearson, Dennis	WR	5-11	177	22	S. Diego St.
6	Parker, Rodney	WR	6-1	190	23	Tenn. St.
7	Jackson, Alfred	WR	5-11	176	23	Texas
	Wright, James	TE	6-2	235	22	TCU
8	Atkins, David	LB	6-0	212	22	Ohio St.
	Williams, David	LB	6-0	212	22	Ohio St.
9	Pridemore, Tom	DB	5-10	186	22	West Va.
10	Patton, Ricky	RB	5-11	185	23	Jackson St.
	Strong, Ray	RB	5-9	184	22	Las Vegas
11	Reed, Milton	DB	5-9	174	23	Baylor
12	Butler, Daria	LB	6-3	215	22	Oklahoma St.

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| 1. 12/19 U.N.C. +6 over Nebraska (17-21)     | Won  | 10. 12/31 N.C. State +2½ over Iowa St. (24-14) | Won  |
| 2. 12/22 Minn. +7 over Maryland (7-17)       | Lost | 11. 12/31 L.S.U. -3½ over Stanford (14-24)     | Lost |
| 3. 12/23 Fla. St. +6½ over Tex. Tech (40-17) | Won  | 12. 12/31 U.S.C. -4½ over Texas A&M (49-27)    | Won  |
| 4. 12/24 Oak. -3 over Baltimore (37-31)      | Won  | 13. 1/1 Denver +3 over Oakland (21-17)         | Won  |
| 5. 12/24 Denver -1½ over Pitts. (34-21)      | Won  | 14. 1/1 Dallas -10½ over Minn. (23-6)          | Won  |
| 6. 12/25 Penn St. -10 over Ariz. St. (40-28) | Won  | 15. 1/2 Alabama -1½ over Ohio St. (35-6)       | Won  |
| 7. 12/26 Dallas -10½ over Chicago (37-7)     | Won  | 16. 1/2 Texas -6 over N. Dame (10-38)          | Lost |
| 8. 12/26 Los. Ang. -9½ over Minn. (7-14)     | Lost | 17. 1/2 Wash. +12½ over Michigan (27-21)       | Won  |
| 9. 12/30 Pitts. -7 over Clemson (34-3)       | Won  | 18. 1/2 Arkansas +13 over Oklahoma (35-6)      | Won  |

#### SUPER BOWL

19. Dallas -5½ over Denver (27-10) Won

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# NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

## PREDICTION 4th

If at first you don't succeed—fire the coach.

That has been the pattern since pro football came to New Orleans. Eleven years now—and now the sixth head coach.

It is Dick Nolan's turn to coach the Saints in the place that calls itself **THE CITY THAT CARE FORGOT**.

Nolan comes in to do what Hank Stram couldn't do. Hank Stram, once a Super Bowl winner with Kansas City, was hired with great flourish by New Orleans, and in two years sacked ignominiously like all the rest.

Can any human ever win with the New Orleans Saints?

The coach-firing habit has been practiced so much in New Orleans there it is a ritual. First, the coach is assured everything is all right at the season's end; wait till next year, we'll get 'em. Then a few days later, an emissary comes from owner John Mecom Jr. The emissary slips the shiv in, not even offering the departing coach the chance to swallow cyanide and do it to himself.

Hank Stram never was told by the man who hired him that he was fired. He never was told why. But Henry, dapper always, should take a guess. Although he had the credentials, he never did better than any of his long line of predecessors. A 3-11 season did him in last year after so many golden promises.

Throughout their history, 11 years now, the Saints have won a not-so-grand total of 39 games. It is fewer than four per season. Some day Mecom will wise up, hire himself an organization, step aside and allow the professionals to build him a franchise. But until then Mecom will play with the franchise as a toy. He has as much disdain for it—and for human emotions of the men he hires—as he does for his boyhood yoyo. But at least the yo-yo went up every now and then.

Whereas Stram was garrulous, Nolan never has been a chatterbox. He coached the 49ers to their only decent seasons of modern times a few years back, with three Western titles. He didn't say much then, either. He is a competent man in an untenable position.

He said: "What I'll try to do on offense are the things that would bother me as a defensive coach. Our defense will be simple with great emphasis on execution. The key to defense is coordination.

The most successful franchise in league history behaved typically in 1977. The Saints had two playoff teams among their victims—the Rams and Bears. But they were the first team in the history of the Planet Earth to lose to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. That loss among the entire 11 must have been that one which cost Stram his job.

What is strange about the Saints is they have talent at some

spots which would look decent on title winning teams. But they ought to have some quality players for the simple reason they draft so early in the rotation every year. Among these quality athletes are Archie Manning, Chuck Muncie, Tony Galbreath, Ike Harris, Conrad Dobler and Wes Chandler, this year's first-round draft choice.

These are all players on offense. So Nolan's team should be able to score points . . . if it can ever get the ball back.

The Saints did make a steal of a trade by accepting two of the disgruntled players the Cardinals dumped. They got Conrad Dobler, fabled in print and pictures as the lineman with the dirtiest tactics in the league, to play guard. They got Ike Harris to catch the forward pass.

In truth, all the publicity about his notorious traits caused Dobler's quality blocking talents to be overlooked. He will help the club. Harris should help, too.

HENRY CHILDS, outleaping Atlanta defender, is Saints' dependable receiver.





DICK NOLAN (above), New Orleans' new head coach, is counting on QB ARCHIE MANNING (No. 8, right) to lead Saints out of NFC West cellar.



Both wanted more dough from the Cardinals, and were banished in retaliation down the Mississippi to the NFL's version of Siberia.

Archie Manning has been stuck there through his entire career. A winner in a losing atmosphere. A year ago Manning had wondered whether he could ever pass the football again. His career was in jeopardy. He had had two operations to his right shoulder.

He found he could pass. The league found he could pass. He ranked fourth in the conference, threw what he could for touchdowns to the weak, depleted corps of receivers. At the same time he ran better than all the other NFC quarterbacks.

When he finally did go out, it was because his ankle bummed up. Bobby Scott, who had been a parttime regular the year before with Manning out damaged, again replaced him. These again are the Saints' quarterbacking veterans—and they cannot be faulted for the club's lowly state.

It seems every other year the Saints draft a flitting wide receiver with their first choice. It is though there is an obsession to get themselves somebody who

could break up a game with an acrobatic catch 15 yards beyond the last defender. Once Larry Burton had provided such an illusion to the Saints' braintrust. But he has never thrilled and was hurt last year and caught only one 13-yard pass. Now the Saints again have gone the swift wide receiver to open up their offense. They took Wes Chandler of Florida on the first round. The scouts listed him as tops at the position, a sure-to-be superstar.

If Chandler does become such a pass catcher—and he should—the Saints will be immeasurably improved on offense. The other wide receivers are Ike Harris, who should catch a lot of passes, Burton, Joel Parker, Tinker Owens and Don Herrmann.

Henry Childs has become a fine tight end in a brief time, a touchdown receiver.

The running should be superb with Muncie and Galbreath in tandem. It was superb last year, even with the three victories. The 2074 yards was a club record. Of this Muncie had 811 yards and Galbreath had 644. They seem to operate in synch together. Behind these two are Mike Strachan, Kim Jones, Greg Boykin

and Jim Van Wagner.

The Saints have never been able to assemble an adequate offensive line. The Saints' quarterbacks were keelhailed 46 times last year, much too much. The addition of Dobler should help. He is the first All-Pro player the Saints have ever had. And he made it elsewhere. But the Saints' propagandists talk of Dobler as next year's King of the Mardi Gras. The returning linemen are Don Morrison and Marv Montgomery at tackle, Emanuel anders at guard and John Hill at center. There are others trying—Kurt Schumacher, John Watson, Dave Lafary, Robert Woods. James Taylor, the second draft choice, should beat some of them out and earn a job, maybe as a starter.

Defensively, the Saints play some of the worst football imaginable. Their defense last year was the most porous in the NFC. Yet the club drafted first to help the offense. Thinking like this is why the Saints have never won more than five times in any of their seasons.

And to get the offensive veterans they wanted—Dobler and Harris—the Saints gave up one of



their best defenders, Bob Pollard. The rush line without him now is Elois Grooms and Joe Campbell outside and Mike Fultz and Derland Moore at the tackles. Behind them there are Richard Neal and Oakley Dalton. The third draft choice was a defensive lineman, Barry Bennett.

The New Orleans linebacking is nothing special. The incumbents are Joe Federspiel in the middle, Jim Merlo and Greg Westbrook to the outside. In reserve, there are Rick Kingrea, Ken Bordelon, Robert Watts and Pat Hughes.

The defensive backfield has been together a long time, which is a bragging point by the Saints. It is for some odd reason, because the club managed only 10 interceptions last season. Cornerback Ernie Jackson and safeties Chuck Crist and Tommy Myers are starting their seventh seasons in the same unit. Maurice Spencer, hurt in 1977, or Clarence Chapman will be the other cornerback. Other veterans are Craig Cassidy, Jimmy Stewart and Wade Bosarge. In hopes of improving the secondary, the Saints drafted Don Schwartz on the fourth round and Eric Felton on the fifth.

The punting of Tom Blanchard

WES CHANDLER, wide receiver, was N.O. Saints' first-round draft choice.



TOM BLANCHARD punted 82 times in 1977 and led NFC with 42.4 average.

is excellent, which is good for the Saints because the defense has that much more field to work in. Blanchard led the NFC last year with a 42.4-yard average. He had to punt 82 times. Richie Szaro, the Harvard intellectual, returns after a poor season as a field goal kicker.

So now it is Dick Nolan's turn on the treadmill. Too nice a guy for this kind of horror. If on the 11th time you don't succeed—

#### 1977 LEADERS AND NFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Childs, 54 points on 9 touchdown passes	T. 9th
<b>RUSHING</b> —Muncie, 201 carries for 811 yds., 6 TDS	7th
<b>PASSING</b> —Manning, 113 of 205 attempts for 1284 yds., 8 TDs	5th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Galbreath, (rb), 41 receptions for 265 yds., 6.5 Avg.	8th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Crist, 4 for 6 yds., 1.5 Avg.	26th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Blanchard, 82 punts, 42.4 Avg., longest 66 yds.	1st
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Mauti, 37 for 281 yds., 7.6 Avg.	10th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Chapman, 15 for 385 yds., 25.7 Avg., 1 TD	2nd

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 5 Phila at Mexico City
12 MIAMI (N)
10 TAMPA (N)
26 AT Houston (N)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 MINNESOTA	—
10 AT Green Bay	20-24
17 PHILADELPHIA	7-28
24 AT Cincinnati	—
Oct. 1 LOS ANGELES	27-26
8 CLEVELAND	—
15 AT San Francisco	17-20
22 AT Los Angeles	7-14
29 N.Y. GIANTS	—
Nov. 5 AT Pittsburgh	—
12 ATLANTA	21-20
19 AT Dallas	—
26 AT Atlanta	7-35
Dec. 3 SAN FRANCISCO	7-10
10 HOUSTON	—
17 AT Tampa Bay	14-33

#### 1977 Scores

Sept. 3 MINNESOTA	—
10 AT Green Bay	20-24
17 PHILADELPHIA	7-28
24 AT Cincinnati	—
Oct. 1 LOS ANGELES	27-26
8 CLEVELAND	—
15 AT San Francisco	17-20
22 AT Los Angeles	7-14
29 N.Y. GIANTS	—
Nov. 5 AT Pittsburgh	—
12 ATLANTA	21-20
19 AT Dallas	—
26 AT Atlanta	7-35
Dec. 3 SAN FRANCISCO	7-10
10 HOUSTON	—
17 AT Tampa Bay	14-33

#### SAINTS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
16	Blanchard, Tom	P	6-0	180	28	7	Oregon
59	Bordelon, Ken	LB	6-4	226	24	2	LSU
	Brown, Ray	S	6-2	202	28	8	W. Tex. St.
80	Burton, Larry	WR	6-1	193	26	3	Purdue
23	Cassady, Craig	S	5-11	175	24	1	Ohio St.
24	Chapman, C.	CB	5-10	185	24	2	East. Mich.
85	Childs, Henry	TE	6-2	205	26	4	Kansas St.
	Cooper, Fred	DB	5-10	176	26	1	Purdue
44	Crist, Chuck	S	6-2	295	26	6	Penn St.
	Dalton, Steve	LB	6-4	235	24	1	Wm. & Mary
66	Dobler, Conrad	G	6-0	255	27	7	Wyoming
58	Federspiel, Joe	LB	6-2	230	27	6	Kentucky
	Ford, Fred	LB	6-4	240	23	1	San Jose
34	Galbreath, Tony	RB	6-1	230	23	2	Missouri
78	Grooms, Elois	DE	6-4	250	24	3	Tenn. Tech
56	Gross, Lee	C	6-3	235	24	3	Auburn
82	Harris, Ike	WR	6-3	205	25	4	Iowa St.
87	Herrmann, Don	WR	6-2	193	30	9	Waynesburg
	Hill, John	C	6-2	246	27	6	Lehigh
54	Hughes, Pat	LB	6-2	225	30	8	Boston U.
32	Jones, Kim	RB	6-4	253	25	2	Colorado St.
53	Kingrea, Rick	G	6-1	222	28	7	Tulane
63	Knowles, Dave	G	6-6	250	22	1	Indiana
8	Manning, A.	QB	6-3	200	28	7	Mississippi
	McGill, Ralph	S	5-11	180	27	7	Tulsa
57	Merlo, Jim	LB	6-1	220	26	4	Stanford
77	Montgomery, M.	T	6-6	255	29	7	So. Calif.
74	Moore, Derland	DT	6-4	253	26	6	Oklahoma
76	Morrison, Don	T	6-5	250	28	6	Arlington
42	Muncie, Chuck	RB	6-3	220	24	2	California
37	Myers, Tom	S	6-0	180	27	6	Syracuse
68	Neal, Richard	DE	6-3	263	30	10	Southern
83	Owens, Tinker	WR	5-11	170	23	2	Oklahoma
88	Parker, Joel	WR	5-5	215	25	3	Florida
82	Pollard, Bob	DE	6-3	236	29	7	Weber St.
75	Price, Elex	DT	6-3	265	27	5	Alcorn St.
71	Schumacher, K.	G	6-3	246	25	3	Ohio St.
12	Scott, Bobby	QB	6-1	197	28	6	Tennessee
29	Sexton, Brent	CB	6-1	190	24	2	Elon
29	Spencer, M.	CB	6-0	176	25	4	N.C. Central
26	Stewart, Jimmy	S	5-11	190	23	2	Tulsa
33	Strachan, Mike	RB	6-0	200	24	3	Iowa St.
15	Szaro, Rich	K	5-11	204	29	3	Harvard
86	Thaxton, James	TE	6-3	242	28	4	Tenn. St.
	Thomas, Jack	LB	6-1	220	23	R	Iowa St.
35	Van Wagner, Jim	RB	6-0	202	21	1	Mich. Tech
59	Watts, Robert	LB	6-3	218	23	1	Boston Col.
60	Westbrooks, G.	LB	6-3	217	24	3	Colorado
65	Woods, Robert	G-T	6-4	259	27	5	Tenn. St.
79	Zanders, Emanuel	G	6-1	248	26	4	Jackson St.

#### DRAFTIES

Round	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	Chandler, Wes	WR	5-11	186	21		Florida
2	Taylor, James	T	6-4	265	21		Missouri
3	Bennett, Barry	DT	6-4	257	22		Concordia
4	Schwartz, Don	DB	6-1	191	21		Wash. St.
5	Felton, Eric	DB	6-0	200	22		Texas Tech
6	Rieker, Mike	QB	6-2	196	22		Lehigh
8	Chesley, Francis	LB	6-3	219	22		Wyoming
9	Williams, Brooks	TE	6-4	218	23		No. Carolina
9	Carler, Richard	DB	6-0	164	22		N.C. State
11	Besaint, Nathan	DT	6-4	265	22		Southern
	Riley, Dave	RB	6-0	203	21		West Va.
12	Hardy, Larry	TE	6-3	230	21		Jackson St.

#### ROOKIES

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
25	Bosarge, Wade	S	5-11	175	22	Tulsa
36	Boykin, Greg	RB	6-0	225	24	No'western
73	Campbell, Joe	DE	6-6	254	22	Maryland
66	Dalton, Oakley	DT	6-6	295	25	Jackson St.
72	Fultz, Mike	DT	6-5	278	23	Nebraska
70	Hubbard, Dave	T	6-7	270	22	BYU
64	Lafary, Dave	T	6-7	280	22	Purdue
84	Mauti, Richarl	WR	6-0	190	23	Penn St.
61	Watson, Mike	T	6-6	275	22	Miami (O.)



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Northwestern	Vanderbilt	Tulsa
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Tennessee	Iowa State	Cornell
Florida	Wisconsin	Brown
Washington	TCU	Dayton
Utah	California	Montana St.
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Oklahoma	Michigan	VMI
Arkansas	LSU	Yale
Duke	Nebraska	Pacific
Oregon	N. Carolina	Boise St.
Oregon St.	Maryland	Dartmouth
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9	7	X	X	24s	22	9				
10	X	16	X	26s	22	10				
11	9	X	X		23	11				
12	X	X	X	27s	23	12				
13	11	15	10	22r	23	13				
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Information So Comprehensive Absolutely Nothing Is Missing

Page 17, first team on the page

Head Coach

Nickname

Log of past games

Complete schedule

Individual game analysis by professional correspondents

Scoring sequence

Complete game statistics

Season's statistical totals for team with differential

Season's average point totals plus average win & loss margins

Season's pointspread record

Results of last year's game

**Combined record of opponents**

**Season's record**

**Playing surface**

**weekly log of team's power rating**

**Current power rating**

**Game No. 1**

**Opponent's power rating**

**Season's record**

**Official pointspread**

**Game result**

**Result vs. pointspread**

**Season's statistical totals for team with differential**

**Season's average point totals plus average win & loss margins**

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# NFL AMERICAN CONFERENCE

**REBUILT MIAMI SET TO TROUNCE AFC RIVALS AND MEET DALLAS IN SUPER BOWL**

## PREDICTIONS

### Eastern Division

1. Miami
2. New England
3. Baltimore
4. Buffalo
5. New York

### Central Division

1. Cincinnati
2. Pittsburgh
3. Houston
4. Cleveland

### Western Division

1. Oakland
2. Denver
3. San Diego
4. Seattle
5. Kansas City

**T**ex Schramm, Dallas' general manager, is a scarred veteran of the old pro football war between the American and National Conferences.

He was not, to say the least, delighted by all the needling stories which celebrated the dominance of the AFC, stepson of the old American League, over the National Conference in both the season series and the Super Bowls.

After Dallas broke the American conference's 5-year hold on the Vince Lombardi Trophy last January in New Orleans, Schramm quipped, "All I know is that the NFC leads the 1978 series, 1-0."

Which AFC team will try to break the NFC's one-game Super Bowl streak next January in Miami?

That may be harder to predict than at any time in years.

If San Diego and Houston are as improved as many football people seem to think, we could see three-team races in every division of the AFC.

Denver may have been everyone's Cinderella franchise last season, but the truth is that the Broncos may be lucky not to slip all the way down to third place in the Western Division this season.

The pick here is for Oakland to regain the Western title, with Denver finishing a notch ahead of the Chargers.

Pittsburgh, beset by internal problems, just barely won another Central Division title, their

fourth in a row. But Houston is better this season and Cincinnati's young defensive stars should ferment enough for the Bengals to win the division title by an eyelash.

The Eastern Division was a nervous breakdown race a year ago. It took the final day of the season to separate Miami and Baltimore. New England might have been the best team in the division at the end, but the Pats self-destructed earlier.

This year the pick is for Miami not only to win the division, but to regain the American Conference championship and face Dallas in the Super Bowl.

The Dolphins have been expertly and quickly rebuilt by Don Shula. Bob Griese is at the peak of his skills as a quarterback and the Miami passing game is more dangerous than it was in the team's Super Bowl years.

What should qualify them to become the first team ever to play a Super Bowl in its home park is a young, aggressive and rapidly-improving defense.

Under the new setup this season, there will be a second wild-card playoff team. That decision was meant to correct any injustices of leaving deserving teams out of the playoffs.

But the races seem to be so close in every division that good teams still may be left out.

From here, the wild-card teams appear to be New England and Pittsburgh.



BOB GRIESE, Miami quarterback, has reached the peak of his game.

That's right. It means that Denver, the defending champion of the AFC, won't even appear in the playoffs this time.

The AFC, which lost a glamorous figure, Joe Namath, to the NFC the season before, loses another this year. O. J. Simpson is no longer a Buffalo Bill but instead will aim at Jim Brown's all-time ground-gaining record in a San Francisco 49er uniform.

For a while, it seemed all the top young runners were going to the NFC—Walter Payton, Tony Dorsett, Chuck Muncie, Ricky Bell.

But then Houston swung a major trade with Tampa Bay last April to acquire the No. 1 pick in the college draft. With it, they selected Texas' Heisman Trophy winner, Earl Campbell.

The prognosis on Campbell is that he could be the best power back to come into the league since Jim Brown.

It was not only good news for the AFC, it might have made the Oilers a Central Division con-

## By Larry Felser

Buffalo Evening News sports columnist Larry Felser is close to pro football scene and veteran expert analyst.



## AFC FINALS—1977

### Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.
DENVER .....	12	2	0	.857
*Oakland .....	11	3	0	.786
San Diego .....	7	7	0	.500
Seattle .....	5	9	0	.357
Kansas City .....	2	12	0	.143

\*Wild Card for Playoffs

### Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.
BALTIMORE .....	10	4	0	.714
Miami .....	10	4	0	.714
New England .....	9	5	0	.643
N. Y. Jets .....	3	11	0	.214
Buffalo .....	3	11	0	.214

### Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.
PITTSBURGH .....	9	5	0	.643
Houston .....	8	6	0	.571
Cincinnati .....	8	6	0	.571
Cleveland .....	6	8	0	.429

### PLAYOFFS

Pittsburgh .....	0	14	0	7-21
Denver .....	7	7	7	13-34
Oakland .....	7	0	14	0 6-37
Baltimore .....	0	10	7	14 0 0-31

tender. Without Campbell they finished 8-6 last year and in such a tight division, who knows?

Del Williams is not as glamorous as Campbell, but he might have far more to say about a tight divisional pennant race than the rookie.

Williams one of the top runners in the National Conference for the last two seasons, was acquired from the 49ers in a major trade which sent wide receiver Fred Solomon, safety Vern Roberson and a first-round-draft choice to San Francisco.

The addition of Williams gives Shula a great deal of latitude in plotting offensive strategy. He already has a bright young halfback in Gary Davis and a new fullback in Leroy Harris. While they were being developed, the Dolphins relied on their passing game and Nat Moore developed into a full-fledged star. Duriel Harris was discovered at about the same time.

With Williams available, Shula can go just about any offensive route which he fancies.

What made Williams, available, ironically, was the 49ers' acquisition of O. J.

Buffalo used its first installment of the Simpson deal, second and third-round choices in this year's draft, to select Florida defensive lineman Scott Hutchinson and wide receiver Danny Fulton of Nebraska-Omaha.

But the man who will be compared to Simpson in any evaluation of the swap this year is Terry Miller, the All-America halfback from Oklahoma State whom the Bills picked on the first round.

Miller had an amazing record in college: 19 straight games in which he gained 100 yards.

Except for Campbell and

Miller, plus a couple of wide receivers—San Diego's selection of John Jefferson of Arizona State and Cleveland's pick of Alabama's Ozzie Newsome—it was a nuts-and-bolts draft for the AFC teams.

For the second year in a row, the New York Jets got the nation's highest rated offensive lineman, Chris Ward of Ohio State. Last year it was Marvin Powell of Southern California.

There are four first-rounders who could start on defense for their new teams as rookies: Kentucky end Art Still for Kansas City, Memphis State corner back Keith Simpson for Seattle, Southern California linebacker Clay Matthews for Cleveland and

Notre Dame defensive lineman Ross Browner for Cincinnati.

The balance of power in all three divisions is so precarious that even deals of little apparent significance could put one of the contenders in the playoffs.

A graphic illustration came last year, when Denver acquired discarded quarterback Craig Morton for what amounted to nothing. Morton put the Broncos in the Super Bowl.

Baltimore hopes it countered the upgrading of Miami, via Williams, by trading with Kansas City for aging middle linebacker Willie Lanier. Lanier had reached the end of the trail in KC, but the Colts need a big, strong, experienced leader in the

CRAIG MORTON, who guided the Denver Broncos into the Super Bowl watches interception with Dallas Cowboys' Randy White (54) and Charlie Waters, right.





middle and he may have enough left to give them what they want.

Pittsburgh's Steel Curtain showed definite signs of corrosion last year. It hopes the acquisition of ex Green Bay Packer defensive lineman Dave Purefory will repair it.

Denver caught Oakland in the Western Division last year and now San Diego would like to catch both of them. The Broncos think they helped their defense by trading for a big middle linebacker, Jim Laslavic of Detroit, and strengthened their already-strong defensive line by trading for Kansas City veteran Wilbur Young.

There are three new head coaches in the AFC this season.

The most significant change occurred in Buffalo. The Bills had plummeted from a 9-5 record in 1972 to a 3-11 record last year. The season ticket sales plummeted even more dramatically, from 54,000 to 20,000.

To reverse that trend, owner Ralph Wilson signed Chuck Knox, the highly-successful head coach of the Los Angeles Rams, to a six-year, \$200,000-per-season contract.

Knox inherits the nucleus of a sound offense but faces an immense rebuilding job on defense.

In Cleveland, owner Art Modell decided Forrest Gregg wasn't the man to guide the Browns past Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, much less Houston, so he hired Sam Rutigliano. Rutigliano is a relatively-unknown, heavily-experienced assistant coach who worked at New Orleans last year and several other NFL teams before that.

Modell hopes that Sam is this year's Red Miller.

Kansas City hit rock bottom last season. The Chiefs finished 2-12. Paul Wiggin was fired as head coach and Tom Bettis finished the season for him. Then Bettis was fired.

Lamar Hunt, the Chiefs' owner, is tired of firing coaches, so he hired Marv Levy to a five-year contract.

Levy, an intellectual who has been a head coach in college, a longtime assistant under George Allen in the NFL and, most recently, head coach of the Cana-

dian League champion Montreal Alouettes, has a huge rebuilding job ahead of him.

The schedules of all NFL teams are now preordained, at least as to when each team plays. Where and in what order is another thing. This is a rundown of the "meat" portions of each AFC team's schedule:

DENVER — The champions open tough, against Oakland, at Minnesota and then back home against ambitious San Diego. It gets reasonable after that until the Broncos play at Oakland and against Pittsburgh in Denver in the last three weeks of the season.

BALTIMORE — Coach Ted Marchibroda is screaming that his start is the toughest ever. It's not, but it's tough enough: at Dallas, Miami and then at New England in a Monday night game. There is also a rocky stretch in mid-season when Denver, Miami and Washington are met consecutively.

PITTSBURGH—The Steelers meet only one team, Cincinnati, which had a '77 winning record during the first half of the season. The last six weeks get tougher, with LA, Cincinnati, Houston, Baltimore and Denver.

OAKLAND—If the Raiders are in reasonable shape by December —when they meet Denver, Miami and Minnesota to close the season—they should walk into the playoffs.

MIAMI—There is a gauntlet to be run from early October to early November, when Cincinnati, San Diego, New England, Baltimore and Dallas are met in succession. Then the Dolphins close with Washington, Oakland and New England.

NEW ENGLAND—September is tough, with Washington, Baltimore and Oakland on the schedule. The last four games include rugged dates with Baltimore, Dallas and Miami.

SAN DIEGO—After opening at Seattle, it gets more difficult, with Oakland, Denver, New England, Denver again and Miami met in a five-week stretch.

CINCINNATI—It gets a little sticky in October with a Monday night match in Miami and then a game against New England the

following Sunday. But the roughest road is from Oct. 29 to Dec. 11 when the schedule will be nothing but probable contenders—Houston, San Diego, Oakland, Pittsburgh and Houston again.

HOUSTON—There is a very difficult middle-of-the-schedule problem for the Oilers. In the space of 11 weeks, they play 8 games against teams which had winning records last year—Los Angeles, Oakland, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, New England, Miami, Cincinnati again and Pittsburgh again.

BUFFALO—If the Bills are to improve under Chuck Knox, it may take some time to tell. They play Pittsburgh, Miami and Baltimore in the first month. There also is an October-early November stretch when they'll see Houston, Cincinnati, New England and Miami within five weekends.

CLEVELAND—If the Browns manage to get off to a good start similar to last year's, they still face a woeful November during which consecutive games against Houston, Denver, Baltimore and Los Angeles are booked.

KANSAS CITY—Marv Levy won't make an easy debut. The Chiefs have Cincinnati, Houston and Denver in September. Then there is a mid-season stretch during which Oakland is met twice and Pittsburgh once over a four-week period.

SEATTLE—The Seahawks' toughies are reasonably spaced out, except for October when Denver is met twice along with Minnesota and Oakland.

NEW YORK—The Jets have some breathing room, but their October card has Baltimore, New England and Denver. It's a tough finish, too, with New England, Miami, Baltimore and Dallas in the last five weeks.

How well anyone does in those rough stretches will depend upon how these questions are answered:

Can fresh new blood, particularly that of defensive backs Charles Phillips, Neal Colzie and Lester Hayes, be pumped into Oakland's struggle with Denver?

Can Ted Hendricks provide the pass rush the Raiders aren't getting from their defensive line?

Can Phil Villapiano come back strongly from knee surgery to give Oakland solid linebacking from side to side?

Is it possible for Craig Morton to have two miracle seasons?

Is it possible for the Denver offensive line to give Morton better pass protection than he got last year when his blockers allowed 50 sacks?

Can Otis Armstrong be a 1000-yard rusher again to take some pressure off the Bronco passing game?

Can Dan Fouts pick up where he left off as San Diego's quarterback?

Will San Diego's offense play up to the standards of its defense, allowing the Chargers to take a run at Denver and Oakland in the AFC-West?

Can Marv Levy intellectualize the Chiefs into a reasonable facsimile of a pro football team?

Did Kansas City draft well enough to give itself a defensive future?

Whom is Levy going to use for a quarterback?

Will young Steve Largent be drenched with multiple coverages after two super seasons for Seattle?

If he is, can Jim Zorn get enough out of his running game to allow the Seahawks to keep up their improvement?

Can Terry Bradshaw keep carrying more and more of the load for Pittsburgh?

Are the Steelers' problems in the secondary as grievous as their rivals seem to think?

Can John Hicks re-discover his potential in Pittsburgh?

Can Brian Sipe be the "young Billy Kilmer" his supporters claim he will be?

If he is, can Sam Rutigliano, Cleveland's new coach, be this year's Red Miller?

Can Earl Campbell break in for Houston as Tony Dorsett did for Dallas?

Has Dan Pastorini found true happiness, at long last, with the Oilers?

Can Bum Phillips patch up his defense enough to challenge Pittsburgh?

Can Bill Johnson, the Cincinnati coach, supervise a big season so that Bengal fans will forget

how their favorites flopped last year?

Will Isaac Curtis be as devastating a deep receiver as he was before his knee surgery?

Can the Bengals find a reasonable substitute for retired tight end Bob Trumpy?

Will the Jets regret not drafting Terry Miller instead of Chris Ward?

Will Richard Todd keep improving as a quarterback without major-league runners to balance off his passing game?

Will Richard Caster be healthy enough to keep the Jet passing game at a high level?

Can Lydell Mitchell keep producing for the Colts without being worn to a nub?

Does the trade for Willie Lanier mean that the Colts will now make the critical plays on defense?

Is it possible that John Dutton's mental state will brighten enough so that he lives up to his all-pro potential?

Can Chuck Knox rebuild the Buffalo running game around Terry Miller?

Will the Bills discover another wide receiver who can take some heat off Bob Chandler?

Can Del Williams and Gary Davis live happily ever after in the Miami backfield?

Will Bill Arnsparger find a way to juice up the Dolphins' pass rush?

Where will Garo Yepremian end up if he doesn't snap out of his slump?

Is Steve Grogan enough of a quarterback to keep New England nose-to-nose-to-nose with Baltimore and Miami all season?

Will the extra official on the field free Russ Francis to put more punch in the Pats' offense?

Does this season hold any more happiness for John Hannah and Leon Gray than last year's did?

Last year, the AFC won 7 of 8 individual NFL statistical titles. Bob Griese of Miami was the top passer; Lydell Mitchell of Baltimore the leading receiver; Lyle Blackwood of Baltimore the leading interceptor, Errol Mann of Oakland the top scorer; Ray Guy of Oakland the top punter, Bill Johnson of Houston the leading

punter; and rookie Raymond Clayborn of New England the kickoff return champ.

The top individual titles could go to these players in 1978:

Ground gaining—Greg Pruitt Cleveland.

Passing—Ken Anderson, Cincinnati.

Scoring—place kicker Toni Linhart of Baltimore.

Punt returns—Billy Johnson of Houston.

Kickoff returns—Robert Woods Kansas City rookie.

Punting—Guy.

Most valuable player—Sam Cunningham, New England.

MVP-defense—Ted Hendricks, Oakland.

Rookie of the year-offense—Terry Miller, Buffalo.

Rookie of the year-defense—Sylvester Hicks, Kansas City defensive lineman.

Coach of the year—Bum Phillips, Houston.

This is what the all-AFC team could look like:

Quarterback — Bob Griese, Miami.

Running backs—Del Williams, Miami and Sam Cunningham, New England.

Wide receivers—Ken Burroughs, Houston and Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh.

Tight end—Dave Casper, Oakland.

Tackles—Art Shell, Oakland and Jon Kolb, Pittsburgh.

Guards — Joe DeLamielleure, Buffalo and John Hannah, New England.

Center—Jim Langer, Miami.

Place kicker—Toni Linhart, Baltimore.

## DEFENSES

Ends—Lyle Alzado, Denver and Eddie Edwards, Cincinnati.

Tackles—Mike Barnes, Baltimore and Jerry Sherk, Cleveland.

Middle linebacker—Steve Nelson, New England.

Outside linebackers — Jack Ham, Pittsburgh and Robert Brazile, Houston.

Corner backs—Louie Wright, Denver and Mike Haynes, New England.

Free safety—Tommy Casanova, Cincinnati.

Strong safety—Bill Thompson, Denver.

Punter—Ray Guy, Oakland.



Eastern  
Division

# MIAMI DOLPHINS

**DON SHULA, Coach.**

**Assistants: Tom Keane, Carl Taseff, Mike Scarry, Howard Schnellenberger, John Sandusky, Bill Arnsparger.**

## PREDICTION 1st

**T**he Dolphins are back among the NFL's elite again.

Last year they came back far enough to make a serious stab at Baltimore's Eastern Division title, missing out on the last day of the season.

This year they may be back far enough to make a successful stab.

Don Shula does the things which are necessary to win. The thing he did which laid the groundwork for Miami's 1977 comeback occurred midway in the previous season. He rehired Bill Arnsparger.

There may be a debate over Arnsparger's credentials as a head coach, considering his unsuccessful term with the New York Giants. But there is absolutely no debate about his genius as a defensive strategist.

The previous season, the Dolphins couldn't stop anyone. The defense was an anchor which

dragged them down to a 6-8 record, Shula's first losing season since going to Miami in 1970.

Last year Arnsparger, upon whom Shula bestowed the title "assistant head coach," played five rookies in his defensive lineup for most of the season. It was like 1970 all over again, when Arns used rookies like Mike Kolen, Doug Swift, Curtis Johnson, Tim Foley and Jake Scott to help turn around the franchise.

This time Arnsparger converted to a 3-4 defense.

Two of the three down linemen were rookies, end A.J. Duhe and nose guard Bob Baumhower, the team's first and second draft choices. There were seven defensive players selected ahead of Duhe in the first round, six of them linemen. But he won the NFL's defensive rookie-of-the-year award. Baumhower was the co-winner in one poll.

The other rookie starters were linebacker Kim Bokamper, cor-

ner Norris Thomas and free safety Vern Roberson. Bokamper, Thomas, Duhe and Baumhower were named to the NFL's all-rookie team.

Roberson lost his job in the last month of the season and later was traded to San Francisco in the Del Williams deal.

Bokamper teams with Larry Gordon and Steve Towle to give the Dolphins a nucleus of large young linebackers in their new four-man unit.

The fourth man for most of last season was veteran Bob Matheson, but at 33 he may be more helpful as a spot player.

The season before, the Dolphins finished 22d in the 28-team NFL in defense against the rush. In today's football, with the pronounced emphasis on the running game, that's what you have to stop if you hope to win consistently.

Last year, the Dolphins were sixth against the run.

**BILL ARNSPARGER, below, rebuilt Dolphins defense for head man DON SHULA, here with QB BOB GRIESE who tossed 22 touchdowns last year.**



In 1976, Miami surrendered 264 points. Last year that figure was cut to 197, an improvement of 67 points.

In '76, the Dolphins were dead last in the NFL in pass defense, a statistic which led to the mocking nickname "the no-defense defense."

Last year the Dolphins ranked 24th, which doesn't appear to be much of an improvement. But look further. In '76, Miami yielded 20 touchdowns by passing. Last year the Dolphins sliced that figure in half, allowing only 10.

"I think our pass rush will improve as our younger players get more experience," says Shula. "And we'll have more depth."

He is thinking of Duhe and Baumhower when he speaks of experience.

Last year Duhe led the team with 7 sacks. He also recovered 2 fumbles, batted down four passes at the line of scrimmage, forced two fumbles and blocked a kick.

Baumhower had four sacks, recovered three fumbles, blocked a field goal and defenses a pass.

Baumhower was second on the team with 131 total tackles as he did a superb job jamming the middle.

Their improvement through a year's experience should upgrade the Dolphins at least a notch.

The depth could be a little more difficult to come by. Other than Heinz, the best chance Arnsparger has of using fresh players to apply pressure to opposing passers may have to come from a rookie, rangy Lyman Smith, a 6-5½, 250-pounder from Duke. Smith came fast as a senior but didn't have an awful lot of playing time before that.

"He reminds me a lot of Baumhower," says Shula. "He's strong and very intelligent. He was accepted into Duke's medical school."

If Duhe and Baumhower don't improve with experience or Smith doesn't make a contribution in his rookie year, the Dolphins could be in trouble. Their 20 sacks last year were the third-lowest in the league. Only Buffalo and Seattle had fewer.

The third man in the defensive line is Vern den Herder, who has



NAT MOORE, Dolphins' receiver, made 52 catches in 1977, 12 for touchdowns.

been a starter for seven seasons. When he got hurt and missed the last three games, veteran Bob Heinz was rehabilitated and put in the starting lineup.

The other line reserves are definitely marginal players: Carl Barisich, Bill Windauer, Rick Dvorak and John Anderson.

There must be a platoon of linebackers when a team plays the 3-4. In back of the starters Miami has Larry Ball, Tony Bertuca, Guy Roberts, Earnie Rhone and Rusty Chambers. Rhone was hurt and missed all but four games.

The draft brought a sleeper linebacker, Sean Clancy, who comes from Amherst, the school which produced Doug Swift, a Dolphin linebacker star of the Super Bowl days.

Shula thinks there will be a lot more stabilization in the secondary this year. For one thing,

Thomas will have a year's experience.

"I thought he played corner as well as anyone in the league last year," says the coach. "He's going to be excellent."

The man opposite Thomas is the steady, 9-year veteran, Curtis Johnson. He led the team in interceptions with four.

The draft brought one of the nation's top corners, Gerald Small of San Jose State. He came in the fourth round and the Dolphins think he would have gone much higher except that he suffered a shoulder separation last season and missed five games. He came back later in the season to do an impressive job on Florida's star wide receiver, Wes Chandler, in the Senior Bowl.

Miami finished the season with Tim Foley, the veteran corner back, at free safety, and 33-year-old Rick Volk on the strong side.



"Foley's ability to change positions after all these years was one of the things which helped us get better on defense," salutes Shula.

The strong side is another story.

Volk can be counted on only as a part-time player at his age. So the Dolphins have their fingers crossed about Charlie Babb, who separated a shoulder and later suffered a broken collar bone, to play regularly. He's been hurt often during his career but still has first-rate ability.

Another possibility is rookie Ted Burgmeier of Notre Dame, who started out as a top wide receiver and then became a quality defensive back following knee surgery.

Also on the defensive back roster are Charles Cornelius and Gary Burl.

The acquisition of Williams gives the Dolphins special firepower. He gained 931 yards last year and 1203 in '76 behind a San Francisco line which is inferior to that of the Dolphins.

Not that Miami was poverty-stricken in its running attack. When the season finished, pro sophomore Gary Davis was at running back and rookie Leroy Harris at fullback. In the final game of the season against Buf-

falo, Davis gained 172 yards in 27 carries, including a 60-yard touchdown run.

Two weeks before the season ended, Harris broke open the big game with Baltimore by running 77 yards for a touchdown. He had 140 yards for the evening.

Miami finished fifth in the NFL in rushing.

With Williams, Don Shula is able to use any phase of offense he sees fit.

"Our backfield can be in the best shape in a long, long time," says Shula, "If Williams performs the way we think he can as a receiver coming out of the backfield, there won't be that much of a necessity to juggle Nat Moore, which will make him less susceptible to injury."

Williams caught 34, 27 and 20 passes his last three seasons with San Francisco. He converted five into touchdowns.

Those figures could be inflated, with Bob Griese throwing to him.

"Griese had his best year as a pro quarterback last season," insists Shula, taking in account the veteran's Super Bowl seasons.

Griese's 22 touchdown passes were the most of his career. He directed the Dolphins to 40 touchdowns, a figure exceeded only by Oakland's 41 in the NFL.

In the pivotal game against St. Louis on Thanksgiving Day, Griese, who now wears glasses when playing, riddled the Cardinals for five touchdowns in a 55-14 rout. He sat out the last quarter.

The Maxwell Club of Philadelphia voted him the Pro Player of the Year.

Griese threw for 2252 yards. His completion average was 58.6 percent. That brought his completion percentage for the last four seasons to nearly 60 percent.

That's ironic, in that there were skeptics who doubted Griese's ability to conduct a pass-oriented game after he lost Larry Csonka, Jim Kiick and Mercury Morris from his backfield.

The man to whom Griese looked most often last year was Moore, the slick, little wide receiver whom Shula used occasionally as a set back in special passing situations.

Nat caught 12 touchdown passes, averaged 14.7 yards a catch and caught 52 balls overall.

"He's only a little guy, 5-9 and 180, so we don't want to wear him down and risk getting him hurt," says Shula.

Just the same, don't discount seeing Moore lining up in strange places at critical times.

TIM FOLEY showed versatility for Miami Dolphins last year.



BENNY MALONE led Miami ground-gainers with 615 yards.



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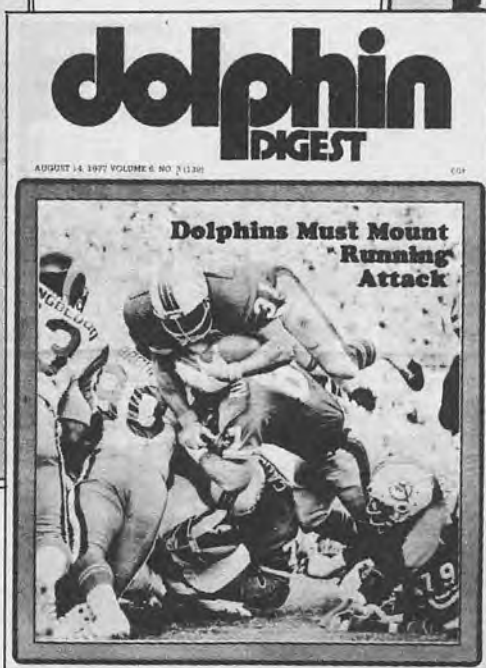
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Duriel Harris beat out Fred Solomon last year and ended up with a higher per-catch average than Moore—17.7 on 34 catches, with five touchdowns.

The tight end, Andre Tillman, is a blocker, essentially. He made 17 catches last year. With Jim Mandich dealt to Washington, Loaird McCreary will get more work in obvious passing situations.

In back of the wide receivers, Shula has only inexperienced Terry Anderson and Larry Seiple, the second punter. The draft brought Penn State star Jimmy Cefalo and Lloyd Henry of Northeast Missouri. Tight end Bruce Hardy of Arizona State also was drafted.

Three veterans, Don Nottingham, Norm Bulaich and Benny Malone, complete the card of running backs. Malone, last year's leading ground gainer with 615 yards, a 4.8 average and five touchdowns, probably will be traded.

Bulaich is especially useful even at 31. He gained 416 yards last year and caught 25 passes.

Nottingham gained 214 yards for a 4.9 average and helps out on the goal line.

Griese's understudy, Don Strock, played far less last year than he did in the two previous seasons. Miami didn't have a first-round selection in the draft (it went in the Williams trade), but the Dolphins selected Guy Benjamin, the Stanford quarterback, on their second-round pick. A smart, well-schooled player, he may be Griese's eventual successor.

The Dolphins also used a low round pick to take Bill Kenney of Northern Colorado.

Unless they get awfully lucky, Miami probably will have to do some reluctant shuffling in the offensive line.

The problem is both tackle positions. If all goes well, one will be named by Wayne Moore, the huge, 33-year-old veteran of the Super Bowl teams. But Moore has been cursed with a series of injuries and it's dangerous to count on him for 14 games.

The other tackle is Mike Current, also 33 and never the most mobile player, even in his youth.

Tampa Bay found him excess baggage but the Dolphins have been playing him.

If either Moore or Current can't cut it this year, one of the excellent guards, Larry Little or Bob Kuechenberg, will have to move over. When that happens, Ed Newman, a reserve with five year's experience, moves into the starting lineup.

Neither Little nor Kuechenberg are as effective at tackle as they are at guard. Newman is sound, but he's no Little or Kuechenberg.

The one constant is Jim Langer, still the best center in football after 8 seasons. At 30, he'll probably retain that status for 3 or 4 more seasons.

Wally Pesuit is the only reserve lineman besides Newman.

Three offensive linemen were drafted, none high. They are tackles Eric Laakso of Tulane and Karl Baldischwiler of Oklahoma and center Mike Dennart of Texas A&M.

The only special teams area in which a Dolphin shone was kickoff returns. Davis' 29.6 aver-

age was second in the NFL.

Garro Yepremian had a sour season as the place kicker. He kicked only 10 field goals in 22 tries. The Dolphins dwell on his career accuracy mark, 161 of 247) and his work inside the vital 39-yard line (106 of 129), but it's still a "what's he done for us lately" game.

If Garro doesn't start out well, his replacement is at hand. Mike Michel, who won the punting job as a rookie, also kicks field goals. He booted 45 and 43-yarders in an exhibition game last year.

Michel underwent foot surgery, which may help his punting average, 38.2.

If Michel did have to place kick, his predecessor, Larry Seiple, a backup tight end, can resume his old duties if Shula doesn't want one man doing both jobs.

#### DOLPHINS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs.	College
76	Alexander, John	DE	6-2½	250	22	2	Rutgers
85	Anderson, Terry	WR	5-9	182	22	2	B.-Cookman
49	Babb, Charlie	S	6-0	190	27	7	Memphis St.
52	Ball, Larry	LB	6-6	235	28	7	Louisville
78	Barisich, Carl	DT	6-4	255	26	6	Princeton
73	Baumhower, Bob	DT	6-5	258	22	2	Alabama
58	Bokamper, Kim	LB	6-6	245	23	2	San Jose St.
31	Bulaich, Norm	RB	6-1	212	31	9	TCU
51	Chambers, R.	LB	6-1	220	24	4	Tulane
44	Cornelius, C.	CB	5-9	176	25	2	B.-Cookman
71	Current, Mike	T	6-4	270	32	12	Ohio St.
27	Davis, Gary	RB	5-10	202	23	3	C.P.—Obispo
83	Den Herder, V.	DE	6-6	252	29	8	Central Iowa
77	Duhe, A.J.	DE	6-4	247	22	2	LSU
75	Dvorak, Rick	DE	6-4	245	25	4	Wichita St.
25	Foley, Tim	S-CB	6-0	194	29	8	Purdue
50	Gordon, Larry	LB	6-4	230	24	3	Arizona St.
12	Griese, Bob	QB	6-1	190	32	12	Purdue
82	Harris, Duriel	WR	5-11	175	23	3	N. Mex. St.
38	Harris, Leroy	RB	5-9½	220	23	2	Arkansas St.
72	Heinz, Bob	DT	6-6	260	30	9	Pacific
45	Johnson, Curtis	CB	6-1	196	29	9	Toledo
67	Kuechenberg, B.	G-T	6-2	255	30	9	Notre Dame
62	Langer, Jim	C	6-2	253	29	9	So. Dakota St.
66	Little, Larry	G-T	6-1	265	32	12	B.-Cookman
32	Malone, Benny	RB	5-10	193	25	5	Arizona St.
88	Mandich, Jim	TE	6-2	214	29	9	Michigan
53	Matheson, Bob	LB	6-4	235	33	12	Duke
80	McCreary, L.	TE	6-5	227	24	3	Tenn. St.
17	Michel, Mike	P-K	5-10½	177	23	2	Stanford
79	Moore, Nat	WR	5-9	180	26	5	Florida
89	Moore, Wayne	T	6-7	265	32	9	Lamar
64	Newman, Ed	G	6-2	245	26	6	Duke
36	Nottingham, D.	RB	5-10	210	28	8	Kent St.
65	Pesuit, Wally	G-T	6-4½	250	23	2	Kentucky
55	Rhone, Earnest	LB	6-2	212	24	3	Henderson
59	Roberts, Guy	LB	6-1	220	27	7	Maryland
20	Seiple, Larry	P-WR	6-0	214	32	12	Kentucky
10	Strock, Don	QB	6-5	220	27	5	Va. Tech
41	Thomas, Norris	CB	5-11	175	23	2	So. Miss.
87	Tillman, Andre	TE	6-5	230	25	4	Texas Tech
56	Towle, Steve	LB	6-2	233	24	4	Kansas
21	Volk, Rick	S	6-3	195	32	12	Michigan
34	Williams, Delvin	RB	6-0	197	27	5	Kansas
1	Yepremian, Garro	K	5-8	175	33	11	No college
74	Young, Steve	T	6-8	263	24	3	Colorado

#### Pre-season Games

July 29	Phila. at Canton (O.)
Aug. 5	ST. LOUIS (N)
12	AT New Orleans (N)
18	MINNESOTA (N)
25	AT Tampa Bay (N)

1978 SCHEDULE	1977 Scores
Sept. 3	AT N.Y. Jets 14-10
10	AT Baltimore 4 p.m. 28-45
17	BUFFALO 4 p.m. 31-14
24	AT Philadelphia —
Oct. 1	ST. LOUIS 55-14
9	CINCINNATI (N) 17-23
15	AT San Diego 13-14
22	AT New England 10-14
29	BALTIMORE 4 p.m. 17-6
Nov. 5	DALLAS 4 p.m. —
12	AT Buffalo 13-0
20	AT Houston (N) 27-7
26	N.Y. JETS 21-17
Dec. 3	AT Washington —
10	OAKLAND 4 p.m. —
18	NEW ENGLAND (N) 17-5

#### DRAFTES

Round	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	
2	Benjamin, Guy	QB	6-3	198	22	Stanford
3	Smith, Lyman	DT	6-5	250	21	Duke
	Cefalo, Jimmy	WR	6-0	188	21	Penn St.
	Small, Gerald	CB	5-11	187	21	S. Jose St.
	Laakso, Eric	OT	6-4	265	21	Tulane
	Burgmeier, Ted	CB	5-10	185	22	Notre Dame
	Bettors, Doug	DE	6-7	250	22	Reno
	Baldischwiler, K.	OT	6-4	267	22	Oklahoma
	Henry, Lloyd	WR	6-3	208	21	N.E. Mo.
8	Clancy, Sean	LB	6-3	218	22	Amherst
9	Hardy, Bruce	TE	6-4	235	22	Arizona St.
10	Dennard, Mark	C	6-1	250	21	Tex. A&M
12	Moore, Mike	RB	6-0	198	22	Mid Tenn.
	Kenney, Bill	QB	6-4	213	22	N. Colorado

# NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

**CHUCK FAIRBANKS, Coach.**  
*Assistants: Hank Bullough, Ron Erhardt, Charlie Summer, Tom Yewcic, John Polonchek, Ray Berry, Jim Ringo, Fritz Shurmur.*

## PREDICTION 2nd

**L**abor strikes are becoming a familiar tradition in New England football.

A couple of years ago the whole Patriot team went on strike before the season started. It turned out all right, because in those days the Pats always played as if they were on strike anyway.

But current times are different.

The Patriots are supposed to be among the creme de la creme of the National Football League. Management cringes at the mere sight of a picket line.

Last year New England was struck by only two workers. But what workers! It was the left side of the offensive line, guard John Hannah and tackle Leon Gray.

It wasn't anything serious. It was just as if the Boston Pops lost its entire string section. The Pats do most of their business over Hannah and Gray. Their business is running the football. The Patriots throw the ball only when there is nothing better to do with it.

Hannah and Gray took a hike early in the regular season. That's unheard of. Football strikes usually occur during training camp, when they don't mean anything. But the players' agent is Howard Slusher, who is Darth Vader to the NFL.

Gray and Hannah had valid contracts, so a players-owners committee ruled that they had to return to their team. But in the aftermath of the walkout, the Pats were so unsettled that they lost to a pair of patsies—the New York Jets and Buffalo.

The final standings in the Eastern Division pennant race read like this:

Baltimore 10-4

Miami 10-4

New England 9-5

The losses to the Jets and Bills cost the Patriots the playoffs. Who knows? It might have cost



SAM CUNNINGHAM, eighth-ranked rusher in NFL, gets solid support from New England Pats' JOHN HANNAH, SAM ADAMS (61) and BOB McKAY (66).

them the Super Bowl?

The players-owners committee also ruled that the Hannah-Gray wrangle, which is concerned with renegotiation of their contracts, could resume this year. So look for more of the same turmoil.

Hannah says he would be happier slopping his hogs down in Alabama than playing in New England. Gray talks of going elsewhere. Even if they do play for the Pats, the unrest could become infectious.

Despite all his troubles, Hannah was voted the NFL's best offensive lineman by his colleagues in the players' Association. Gray is Pro Bowl quality. They are the heart of the offense.

If they could sooth the Gray-Hannah trouble, the Pats could go a long way in this year's championship race.

New England plays sound de-

fense and the Pats can run the ball with vigor, two qualities which are necessary for teams with Super Bowl ambitions.

The Pats finished sixth in the NFL in rushing last year, despite the Hannah-Gray strike and despite losing starting halfback Andy Johnson for the entire season.

They finished fifth overall defensively and strangled the run. Only Denver played it better. When they can't run against the Patriots, teams have to pass. When they have to pass, the quarterback is in trouble. The Pats savaged passers for 58 sacks last year, best in the league and five more than the runnerup, Dallas' Doomsday Defense.

Fullback Sam Cunningham, possibly the best pure power running in the NFL now, played hurt and still gained 1015 yards.



Don Calhoun, really another fullback, played halfback when Johnson got hurt and gained 727.

When you defense the Pats, you also have to defense the quarterback as a runner. Steve Grogan didn't have the same sort of year he did when he ran for 12 touchdowns and a 6.6-yard per-carry average in 1976, but he still averaged 5.3 on his 61 trips. He scored only once.

Grogan the passer did just about as well as the year before, throwing for 17 scores and accumulating 2162 yards.

This year the running game should be more versatile with the return of Andy Johnson and the development of Ike Forte and Horace Ivory. Johnson, the starting running back, missed all of '77 due to a knee injury. He was just starting to contribute heavily after his conversion from college quarterback.

Ivory and Forte have the kind of speed which would allow a change of pace in the attack. The only back drafted was Mosi Tatupu of Southern California, a blocking fullback.

There is more to the offensive line than Hannah and Gray.

Sam Adams is a sound guard and Bill Lenkaitis a center with 11 year's experience. The problem is right tackle. Bob McKay, Shelby Jordan and 13-year veteran Tommy Neville have played there with indifferent results.

The big question is when Pete Brock is going to sprout? He was a highly-touted first-round choice two years ago, but Brock hasn't been able to break in as a center or guard. Yet the Patriots are rumored to have turned down a first and second-round draft pick for him last spring. Fred Sturt is another reserve guard.

Chuck Fairbanks, the head coach, has a super tight end in Russ Francis, around whom the passing game is built. But Fairbanks isn't satisfied with just one. He has used three tight ends at the same time in goal-line situations. The idea is to get blocking mismatches with mastodons like Francis and Don Hasselbeck against little corner backs. It works.

Hasselbeck also caught four touchdown passes as a rookie.

With the defenses concentrating on Francis, both Patriot wide receivers had outstanding years.

Veteran Darryl Stingley caught 39 passes for a 16.8-yard average and 5 touchdowns. Rookie flash Stanley Morgan averaged 21.1 yards on his 21 catches, three of which went for touchdowns.

Steve Burks is the only experienced backup wide receiver. Don Westbrook didn't catch a ball in his rookie season. But the draft brings a first-rate talent, 6-2, 180-pound Carlos Pennywell of Grambling, who has speed and hands.

Behind Francis and Hasselbeck at tight end is Al Chandler. Brock also is used there in blocking situations.

John Smith does a satisfactory job as the field goal kicker. He connected of 15 of 21 last year. Mike Patrick averaged a soggy 36.2 as the punter.

Despite all the sacks and the good record against the run, the Pats didn't place a defensive lineman or linebacker on the Pro Bowl squad.

This team does it, for the most part, with numbers.

Julius Adams is the top all-around defensive lineman at end, but Ray Hamilton splits the time

MATT CAVANAUGH, rookie from Pitt, is coming off knee operation and figures as Patriots quarterback of the future.



RUSS FRANCIS, Patriots tight end, makes running grab as Buffalo's safety TONY GREEN reaches scene too late.





PRENTICE McCRAY, Pats safety, lends five years experience as professional.

with Richard Bishop at nose guard. Mel Lunsford is the starter of record across from Adams, but Tony McGee plays as much and is the team's best pass rusher.

They'll try to work Greg Boyd into the rotation this year.

Inside linebacker Steve Nelson is a quality player, one of the most underrated in the league. His partner, Sam Hunt, is the best fat linebacker in the NFL.

There could be a change in the outside linebackers. Pete Barnes is 33 and Rod Shoate, who stayed injury free for a change, is good enough to start. Steve Zabel had his best pro season at the age of 29.

Behind them are experienced Steve King, tough Ray Costict and Jim Romainisyn, who missed the '77 season due to injury.

Mike Haynes, the NFL defensive rookie of the year in '76, was a pro Bowl corner back last year. He's excellent. He gave up his punt return duties to Morgan, who finished second in the NFL with a 13.8 yards average.

At the other corner, 33-year-old Bob Howard will be pressed to keep his job from Raymond Clayborn, a first-round draftee last year. Clayborn occupied himself last year by leading the league in kickoff returns with a 31-yard average and three touch-

down returns of 101, 100 and 93 yards.

Tim Fox is a fixture at free safety. Prentice McCray is the experienced strong safety. Backup Dick Conn plays well on special teams. Doug Beaudoin is the extra defensive back.

As usual, the Pats had a good draft.

The top pick was Bob Cryder, a Hannah-like, 270-pound guard from Alabama who will be insurance against Hannah returning to the hogs.

The best pick might have come on Round 2, where the Pats got Pitt quarterback Matt Cavanaugh. He didn't go on Round 1 because he needed knee surgery. The Pats, with Grogan and Owen, can afford to wait for him.

Pennywell may be the heaviest contributor as a rookie.

Others who should help in the future are Tennessee State offensive tackle Dwight Wheeler, South Dakota State linebacker Bill Matthews, Texas A&I linebacker Mike Hawkins and another big guard from Montana, Terry Falcon.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Smith, 78 points on 33 XP, 15 field goals	T. 5th
<b>RUSHING</b> —Cunningham, 270 carries for 1015 yds., 3.8 Avg., 4 TDs	5th
<b>PASSING</b> —Grogan, 160 of 305 attempts for 2162 yds., 17 TDs	7th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Cunningham, (rb), 42 receptions for 370 yds., 8.8 Avg., 1 TD	13th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Haynes, 5 for 54 yds., 10.8 Avg.	14th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Patrick, 65 punts, 36.2 Avg., longest 64 yds.	14th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Morgan, 16 for 220 yds., 13.8 Avg.	2nd
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Clayborn, 28 for 269 yds., 31.0 Avg.	1st

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 5 AT Los Angeles (N)
12 AT Oakland 6 p.m.
20 KANSAS CITY
27 CLEVELAND

1978 SCHEDULE		1977 Scores
Sept. 3	WASHINGTON	—
10	AT St. Louis	—
28	BALTIMORE (N)	17-3
24	AT Oakland 6 p.m.	—
Oct. 1	SAN DIEGO	24-20
8	PHILADELPHIA	14-6
15	AT Cincinnati	—
22	MIAMI	14-10
29	N.Y. JETS	24-13
Nov. 5	AT Buffalo	20-7
12	HOUSTON	—
19	AT N.Y. Jets	27-30
26	AT Baltimore 4 p.m.	24-30
Dec. 3	AT Dallas	—
10	BUFFALO	14-24
18	AT Miami (N)	5-17



DON HASSELBECK, second-year pro, gives New England depth at tight end.

#### PATRIOTS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
85	Adams, Julius	DE	6-4	260	30	8	Tex. So. ern
61	Adams, Sam	LB	6-3	255	29	7	Prairie View
59	Barnes, Pete	LB	6-1	240	31	12	Southern
27	Beaudoin, Doug	S	6-1	195	24	3	Minnesota
64	Bishop, Richard	T	6-1	260	28	3	Louisville
65	Boyd, Greg	DE	6-6	270	25	2	S. Diego St.
58	Brock, Pete	C-G	6-5	260	24	3	Colorado
21	Brown, Sidney	DB	6-0	186	23	1	Oklahoma
82	Burks, Steve	WR	6-5	210	25	4	Ark. State
44	Calhoun, Don	RB	6-0	215	26	5	Kansas St.
87	Chandler, Al	TE	6-2	228	27	5	Oklahoma
26	Clayborn, R.	CB	6-1	181	23	2	Texas
22	Conn, Dick	S	6-0	185	27	5	Georgia
55	Costict, Ray	LB	6-0	214	23	2	Miss. State
39	Cunningham, S	RB	6-3	230	28	6	So. Calif.
76	Cusick, Pete	T	6-1	255	25	3	Ohio St.
38	Forte, Ike	RB	6-0	202	25	3	Arkansas
48	Fox, Tim	S	5-11	190	24	3	Ohio St.
81	Francis, Russ	TE	6-6	240	25	4	Oregon
70	Gray, Leon	T	6-3	255	27	6	Jackson St.
14	Grogan, Steve	QB	6-4	205	25	4	Kansas St.
71	Hamilton, R.	T	6-1	250	27	6	Oklahoma
73	Hannah, John	G	6-2	265	27	6	Alabama
80	Hasselbeck, D.	TE	6-7	245	23	2	Colorado
24	Haynes, Mike	CB	6-2	195	24	3	Arizona St.
50	Howard, Bob	LB	6-1	250	31	12	S. Diego St.
50	Hunt, Sam	LB	6-1	250	26	5	S. F. Austin
23	Ivory, Horace	RB	6-0	197	23	2	Oklahoma
32	Johnson, Andy	RB	6-0	204	25	5	Georgia
74	Jordan, Shelby	T	6-7	260	26	3	Wash. (Mo.)
52	King, Steve	LB	6-4	228	27	6	Tulsa
67	Lenkaltis, Bill	C	6-4	252	32	11	Penn St.
72	Lunsford, Mel	DE	6-3	260	28	6	Central (O.)
34	McCray, P.	S	6-1	190	27	5	Arizona St.
78	McGee, Tony	DE	6-4	250	29	8	Bishop
66	McKay, Bob	T	6-5	265	30	9	Texas
	Montgomery, G.	LB	6-2	230	23	1	Alabama
86	Morgan, Stanley	WR	5-10	180	23	2	Tennessee
57	Nelson, Steve	LB	6-2	228	27	5	No. Dak. St.
77	Neville, Tom	T	6-4	255	35	13	Miss. State
17	Owen, Tom	QB	6-1	200	26	5	Wichita St.
2	Patrick, Mike	P	6-0	195	25	4	Miss. St.
35	Phillips, Jess	RB	6-1	210	31	11	Michigan St.
53	Romainisyn, J.	LB	6-1	220	26	5	Edinboro
56	Shoate, Rod	LB	6-1	215	25	3	Oklahoma
1	Smith, John	K	6-0	190	29	5	England
84	Stingled, Fred	WR	6-0	193	26	4	Purdue
63	Sturt, Fred	G	6-4	255	27	6	Bowl. Green
51	Vogele, Jerry	LB	6-3	235	23	1	Michigan
83	Westbrook, D.	WR	5-10	188	24	2	Nebraska
51	Zabel, Steve	LB	6-4	228	30	9	Oklahoma

#### DRAFTEES

Round	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	1	Cryder, Bob	OG	6-4	278	21	Alabama
2	2	Cavanaugh, M.	QB	6-1	219	21	Pittsburgh
3	3	Pennywell, C.	WR	6-2	180	21	Grambling
4	4	Wheeler, Dwight	OT	6-3	275	22	Tenn. St.
5	5	Matthews, Bill	LB	6-2	235	21	So. D. St.
6	6	Coleman, Kern	LB	6-3	243	21	Mississippi
7	7	Hawkins, Mike	LB	6-2	232	22	Texas A & I
8	8	Falcon, Terry	OG	6-3	278	22	Montana
		Tatupu, Mosi	RB	6-0	229	22	So. Calif.
9	9	Peterson, Tim	LB	6-2	232	22	Arizona St.
10	10	Ferguson, Bryan	DB	6-0	189	22	Miami (Fla.)
11	11	Williams, Charlie	LB	6-0	222	22	Florida
12	12	Gibney, John	OC	6-5	262	21	Colgate



# BALTIMORE COLTS

## PREDICTION 3rd

Let's put the Baltimore Colts in historical perspective, at least recent historical perspective.

Just four seasons ago the Colts were one of the basket cases of pro football. They finished the 1974 season with a 2-12 record.

The next season, the club hired Ted Marchibroda as head coach. In his first year on the job, Marchibroda guided the Colts to a 10-4 record and the Eastern Division championship of the American Conference.

Baltimore won the Eastern title every season since. Their record is 38-11 during the Marchibroda era. Their record within the division, one of the most competitive in the league, is 19-5. He is 5-1 against Don Shula, possibly the greatest coach of all time.

So why are there so many doubters about the Colts' right to be listed with the best teams in the league? Why is there so much skepticism about Marchibroda's inclusion among the top coaches in football? Why is there so much sentiment toward picking Miami and New England to knock the Colts off their throne this season?

Part of the answer might be in Baltimore's inability to get beyond the first round of the playoffs. It would be wrong to accuse the club of "choking." They took Oakland into sudden-death overtime last December and chokers don't do that. A better explanation might be that the Colts seem to lack killer instinct.

A larger part of the answer might be in the way Marchibroda seemed to disintegrate under the pressure of last season.

Ted was the image of a man under too much strain late last year. He got into a farcical beef with Shula when he tried to fire up his players during the first Miami game by claiming that Don was "laughing at them"



BERT JONES, fiery QB for Colts, connected for 2686 yards last year.

when the Dolphins held a lead early in the game. He raved at Pete Rozelle for what he considered an imaginary slight. He became over-cautious with his offense late in the season, which contributed to a 3-game losing streak which nearly cost the team the title.

In the end, it took a controversial call by an official on an obvious fumble by quarterback Bert Jones to put the Colts in the playoffs.

The official ruled that the ball was dead and that New England had not made a vital recovery in the last game of the season. The call might have saved the game for the Colts and kept Miami from winning the championship.

Baltimore's problems didn't end there.

After Oakland eliminated them, there was some loud second guessing of Jones by tight end Raymond Chester and wide receiver Glenn Doughty. Some

**TED MARCHIBRODA, Coach.**

*Assistants: Ralph Hawkins, Dick Dielski, Maxie Baughan, George Boutsellis, Whitey Dovell, Ed Khayat.*

said part of it was due to racial turmoil on the team.

The Colts don't need those outside hassles this season. Both the Patriots and Dolphins are stronger and Baltimore will need all the harmony and concentration it can muster.

The talent is there.

They start with Bert Jones, whom Joe Namath called, "the best in the business" last year.

Jones has the most powerful and accurate arm in the league. He threw for more yards, 2686, than any passer in the NFL. His interception rate was matched only by Pat Haden of Los Angeles, who threw 177 fewer passes than Jones. His passes accounted for 17 touchdowns.

He is a fiery leader. Sometimes too fiery. His on-field hassles with officials would look more appropriate in an NBA game and they sometimes unsettle his teammates.

But that will pass. He'll mellow soon.

The amazing thing is that Jones is entering just his sixth NFL season. He won't be 27 until a week after the season starts. He is nowhere near his prime, which is frightening for Colt foes.

Jones' statistics might be much glossier with better receiving. His favorite long-distance target, Roger Carr, held out far into the summer last year and that contributed to a bunch of nagging injuries which kept him on the bench often.

A racehorse type, Carr needs steady work to keep from suffering nagging muscle pulls, which hinder his style. He caught only 11 passes last year and scored just one touchdown.

Doughty caught 28 balls, averaged 15.5 yards per catch and scored 4 touchdowns, not bad for a man the club tried to replace a year ago. Doughty's replacement was supposed to be Randy Burke, last year's No. 1 draft choice. But then Burke suffered a

shoulder injury which put him out for the season before it even began.

Burke should make a challenge this year. So should Marshall Johnson, the ex halfback who also missed all of last season with an injury. Those two have what the Colts need badly—sprinter speed.

Also in the running are Freddie Scott, Carr's replacement last year. He caught 18 passes for a 14.8-yard average. Ricky Thompson and ex Jet Howard Satterwhite also are on the roster.

Chester's post-season blast at Jones makes him vulnerable. He made some big plays in big games, especially the finale against New England. His statistics weren't bad—31 catches for a 17.9-yard average and 3 touchdowns.

But he doesn't do a lot of the things the Colts feel that a championship tight end should do.

Behind him are Jimmie Kennedy and Mack Alston, who played out his option in '77. Neither one is a threat to Chester, so his challenge would have to come from elsewhere.

The Colts didn't make it a secret that they tried to sign ex St. Louis star Terry Metcalf during the off-season. Metcalf finally signed with Toronto of the Canadian League for a bundle of cash. But the Colts admit that they need the kind of speed a Metcalf can produce in the backfield.

Baltimore possesses one of the

most versatile backs in football., Lydell Mitchell. Lydell ran for 1159 yards in 301 carries and led the NFL with 71 receptions.

His total yardage was 1779 yards. But he is one of the slowest NFL backs around, believe it or not, and the Colts need someone who can turn the corner for them.

There is a dilemma at fullback, too.

Marchibroda likes to go with safe, hard-blocking Roosevelt Leaks. He might be far better off playing Ron Lee, a man who doesn't block quite as well but is far more explosive. Lee was the second-leading rusher with 346 yards. He carried the ball 25 more times than Leaks.

Behind Mitchell is another plow horse, Don McCauley, whose value is in his clutch performances—either on the goal line or in third-down situations. McCauley scored 8 touchdowns last year, giving him 30 in the last three seasons. He was the No. 2 Colt pass receiver with 51 catches.

The future is with the No. 1 draft choice, big, rugged Reese McCall of Auburn. McCall is a skilled blocker whom the Baltimore scouts feel could become a skilled receiver.

He may not be ready right away. The Colts may have to live with Chester for another season. But in time, McCall will be the man.

Mitchell is the back around whom the entire attack is built.

He ran for 1159 yards last year, third in the AFC. He led the NFL in pass receptions with 71.

Yet the Colts tried desperately to sign Terry Metcalf, who had played out his option with the St. Louis Cardinals. When Metcalf signed in Canada, the Colts tried to deal for a high draft pick, so that they might be able to land one of the top backs, like Earl Campbell, Terry Miller or Elvis Peacock.

They were unsuccessful, so they still lack an important element: burning speed. Mitchell, for all his talent, is one of the slowest backs in the league.

The draft brought three more backs—Ben Garry of Southern Mississippi, Jeff Logan of Ohio State and Monte Anthony of Nebraska. Logan was once star for the Buckeyes. Anthony was a player of great potential and little production for the Cornhuskers.

There is one alteration in the veteran offensive line. When Elmer Collett, the seasoned left guard, got hurt, Ken Huff moved into the starting lineup at right guard with Bob Pratt moving over to the left side. At 33, Collett is a longshot to reclaim his job. Bob Van Dwyne also is an experienced guard.

George Kunz and David Taylor do well at tackle. Wade Griffin is their standby and Frank Myers of Texas A&M is the top draftee on the offensive line. Ken Mendenhall is a first-rate center.

GEORGE KUNZ, offensive tackle, was chosen to the All-Pro team for the fifth time last season and played in his seventh Pro Bowl contest.

LYDELL MITCHELL led the Colts in rushing, the NFL in pass receptions.







MIKE BARNES, Colts DT, had 31 solo tackles, eight sacks last season.

Behind him is former all-pro Forrest Blue and Orrin Olsen.

The Colts' defense is wrapped up in its line.

The Sack pack mugged quarterbacks 47 times last year. Tackle Mike Barnes was named the defensive lineman of the year by his colleagues in the NFL Players' Association. Barnes and end John Dutton were named to the pro Bowl squad.

Fred Cook, the other end, played better than Dutton last year, in the opinion of many, and Joe Ehrmann, the other tackle, is first rate.

Now the group can be even better.

Veteran Herb Orvis, who can play tackle or end, was acquired from Detroit for insurance purposes. Last year's No. 2 draftee, Mike Ozdowski, is healthy again after missing the entire '77 season due to injury. Also on hand are experienced reserves Ron Fernandez and Ken Novak.

The big worry last year was over middle linebacker.

Marchibroda had to play undersized Ed Simonini there and at times he was overwhelmed. Last spring the Colts traded with Kansas City for one-time all-pro Willie Lanier. Lanier is 33 but he is extra big and he may rediscover his prime, playing behind

Barnes and Ehrmann.

The draft brought Mike Woods, a talented, tough kid from the U of Cincinnati whom the coaches hope will learn from Lanier and soak up some of his class.

Another youngster, Sanders Shriver, will take a pass at the starting outside linebacker position manned by Tom MacLeod. Shriver is faster. The other job belongs to Stan White, who makes as many pass interceptions as any linebacker in the NFL.

Behind them are veterans Dan Dickel and Derrel Luce and rookie Calvin O'Neal.

Norm Thompson gave a steady performance at corner after being signed as an option payout and Nelson Munsey has some outstanding games on the other side. Veterans backups are Doug Nettles and Lloyd Mumphord.

Lyle Blackwood was the surprise of the secondary with 10 interceptions after being claimed on waivers from Seattle. Bruce Laird is the steady strong safety. Ray Oldham and Tim Baylor are reserves.

Toni Linhart kicked 17 of 26

#### 1977 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Linhart, 83 points on 32 XP, 17 field goals	2nd
<b>RUSHING</b> —Mitchell, 301 carries for 1159 yds., 3.9 Avg., 3 TDs	3rd
<b>PASSING</b> —Jones, 224 of 393 attempts for 2686 yds., 17 TDs	3rd
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Mitchell, (rb), 71 receptions for 620 yds., 8.7 Avg., 4 TDs	1st
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Blackwood, 10 for 163 yds., 16.3 Avg.	1st
<b>PUNTING</b> —D. Lee, 82 punts, 38.3 Avg., longest 59 yds.	9th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Stevens, 34 for 301 yds., 8.9 Avg.	13th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Laird, 24 for 541 yds., 22.5 Avg.	10th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 6 PITTSBURGH
12 AT Tampa Bay (N)
18 WASHINGTON (N)
24 AT Detroit (N)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4 AT Dallas (N)
10 MIAMI
18 AT New England (N)
24 AT Buffalo
Oct. 1 PHILADELPHIA
8 AT St. Louis
15 N.Y. JETS
22 DENVER
29 AT Miami
Nov. 6 WASHINGTON (N)
12 AT Seattle
19 CLEVELAND
26 NEW ENGLAND
Dec. 3 AT N.Y. Jets
9 AT Pittsburgh
17 BUFFALO

1977 Scores
—
45-28
3-17
31-13
—
—
33-12
13-27
6-17
10-3
29-14
—
30-24
20-12
31-21
17-14

field goals last year. David Lee starts his 13 season as the Colts' punter but the draft brought George Allen's son, Bruce, who punted for Richmond.

#### COLTS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
83	Alston, Mack	TE	6-5	233	30	9	Md.-East
63	Barnes, Mike	DT	6-6	256	27	6	Miami (Fla.)
47	Baylor, Tim	DB	6-6	191	23	3	Morgan St.
44	Blackwood, Lyle	DB	6-0	190	26	6	TCU
50	Blue, Forrest	C	6-6	260	32	11	Auburn
81	Carr, Roger	WR	6-3	196	25	5	La. Tech
87	Chester, Ray	TE	6-4	236	29	9	Morgan St.
66	Collett, Elmer	OG	6-5	246	33	12	San Fran. St.
72	Cook, Fred	DE	6-3	243	25	5	So. Miss.
55	Dickel, Dan	LB	6-3	230	25	5	Iowa
35	Doughty, Glenn	WR	6-1	205	26	7	Michigan
78	Dutton, John	DE	6-7	266	26	5	Nebraska
76	Ehrmann, Joe	DT	6-4	254	28	6	Syracuse
73	Fernandes, Ron	DE	6-4	255	26	4	East. Mich.
69	Griffin, Wade	OT	6-5	231	23	1	Mississippi
	Griggs, Perry	KR	5-10	180	23	1	Troy St.
	Hammond, W.	DT	6-5	250	22	2	Montana St.
62	Huff, Ken	OG	6-4	262	24	4	No. Carolina
80	Johnson, M.	WR	6-1	196	25	3	Houston
7	Jones, Bert	QB	6-3	212	26	6	LSU
85	Kennedy, Jimmie	TE	6-3	230	25	4	Colorado St.
15	Kirkland, Mike	QB	6-1	195	23	3	Arkansas
75	Kunz, George	OT	6-5	262	30	10	Notre Dame
40	Laird, Bruce	S	6-1	198	27	7	Amer. Intl.
	Lanier, Willie	LB	6-1	245	32	12	Morgan St.
48	Leaks, Roosevelt	RB	5-10	225	24	4	Texas
49	Lee, David	P	6-5	216	34	13	La. Tech
34	Lee, Ron	RB	6-4	222	24	3	West Va.
2	Linhart, Toni	K	5-11	179	35	5	Austria
58	Luce, Derrel	LB	6-3	227	25	4	Baylor
52	MacLeod, Tom	LB	6-4	224	26	5	Minnesota
23	McCauley, Don	RB	6-1	215	28	8	No. Carolina
57	Mendenhall, Ken	C	6-3	250	29	8	Oklahoma
26	Mitchell, Lydell	RB	5-11	198	29	7	Penn St.
42	Mumphord, Lloyd	CB	5-10	178	31	10	Tex. So'ern
31	Munsey, Nelson	CB	6-1	186	29	7	Wyoming
30	Nettles, Doug	CB	6-0	178	26	4	Vanderbilt
74	Novak, Ken	DT	6-7	264	23	3	Purdue
25	Oldham, Ray	DB	5-11	192	26	6	Mid. Tenn.
	Olsen, Orrin	C	6-1	245	24	2	Bridg. Young
	Orvis, Herb	DT	6-5	255	31	7	Colorado
	Ozdowski, Mike	DE	6-5	244	22	1	Virginia
61	Pratt, Robert	OG	6-4	248	26	5	No. Carolina
28	Satterwhite, H.	WR	5-11	185	24	3	S. Houston
54	Shiver, Sanders	LB	6-2	222	22	3	C. Newman
56	Simonini, Ed	LB	6-0	210	23	3	Texas A&M
27	Stevens, H.	KR-RB	5-5	165	27	5	Louisville
64	Taylor, David	OT	6-5	264	28	6	Catawba
43	Thompson, Norm	CB	6-1	180	32	8	Utah
88	Thompson, R.	WR	6-0	176	23	3	Baylor
12	Troup, Billy	QB	6-5	215	26	5	So. Carolina
67	Van Duyn, Bob	G-T	6-4	244	25	5	Idaho
53	White, Stan	LB	6-1	223	28	7	Ohio St.
	Williams, Larry	S	6-0	190	24	1	New Mex. St.

#### DRAFTEES

Round	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	McCall, Reese	TE	6-7	223	21	Auburn
2	Woods, Mike	LB	6-2	227	23	Cincinnati
5	Myers, Frank	T	6-5	255	31	Texas A&M
6	Garry, Ben	RB	6-1	200	21	St. Louis
7	Logan, Jeff	RB	5-9	185	21	Ohio St.
8	Anthony, Monte	RB	6-3	210	21	Nebraska
9	Studdard, Dave	T	6-4	250	22	Texas
10	Owens, Dallas	DB	5-11	195	21	Kentucky
11	Mason, Henry	WR	6-0	185	21	Cent. Mo.
12	Allen, Bruce	P	6-1	180	21	Richmond

#### FREE AGENTS

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
Adzima, Steve	DE	6-5	250	24	Hawaii
Allen, Bruce	P	6-1	180	21	Richmond
Anthony, Monte	RB	6-3	210	21	Lincoln
Baker, Ron	U	6-3	238	23	Okl. St.
Banks, Bill	LB	6-1	225	22	Penn St.
Bartley, Delasio	RB	6-2	215	22	N. C. Central
Burke, Randy	WR	6-1	186	22	Kentucky
Dark, Frank	DB	6-0	186	24	Va. Union
Farmer, Roger	WR	6-3	195	22	Baker
Feaster, Dexter	WR	6-3	185	24	N. C. A&T
Garry, Ben	RB	6-1	200	21	So. Miss.
Henderson, John	DB	6-0	185	21	Georgia
Lazaro, Ben	T	6-3	265	22	Villanova
Logan, Jeff	RB	5-9	185	21	Ohio St.
Mason, Henry	WR	6-0	185	21	Central Mo.
Reese, McCall	TE	6-7	223	21	Auburn
Miller, Tony	DE	6-0	190	24	E. Kentucky
Moore, Ricky	DB	6-2	195	24	N.C. Central
Myers, Frank	OT	6-5	255	31	Texas A&M
O'Neal, Calvin	LB	6-1	235	23	Michigan
Owens, Dallas	DB	5-11	195	21	Kentucky
Ozdowski, Mike	DE	6-5	244	22	Virginia
Robey, Dave	DT	6-5	258	23	Cal St. (Pa.)
Smith, Tom	DB	5-10	180	23	Omaha
Sochko, Mike	P	6-0	185	22	Maryland
Standeford, Dana	QB	6-1	198	21	Franklin
Studdard, H.	OT	6-4	250	22	Texas
Switalski, Richard	C	6-5	248	22	Virginia
Szczerba, Ed	DT	6-4	250	23	Villanova
Toran, Nate	LB	6-1	235	23	Rutgers
Washington, N.	DE	6-7	240	23	Iowa
White, Henry	HB	5-9	175	22	Colgate
Williams, Larry	DB	6-0	192	24	New Mexico
Woods, Mike	LB	6-2	227	23	Cincinnati



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# BUFFALO BILLS

## PREDICTION 4th

**I**t's the end of an era in Buffalo this season. The Bills are no longer the O.J. Simpson Bills.

They are the Chuck Knox Bills.

With O.J. gone to San Francisco, the Bills will be remodeled to Knox's specifications. "Rebuild" is a nasty word to the Buffalo fans. To them, the team has been in a constant rebuilding program for the last 10 years.

The one constant was Simpson, possibly the greatest breakaway runner in the history of the NFL. No matter how dark the picture might get, there was always O.J. With him, the Bills had the capacity to beat even the best teams.

Except the last two seasons they hardly beat anyone. The victory total for 1976-77 was a dismal five.

The low point was reached last Oct. 30 in Seattle when the expansion Seahawks humiliated

Buffalo, 56-17. While Jim Zorn was throwing four touchdown passes and running for a fifth, the Bills sent O.J. into the line 9 times for a mere 32 yards.

It was the last time Simpson ran the ball for Buffalo. Hobbled by a knee injury which later required surgery, O.J. sat on the bench in despair for the last part of the game.

For the man who once gained more than 2000 yards in a single season, his career in Buffalo had ended not with a bang but a whimper.

At the age of 31, with the uncertainty of playing on a repaired knee, crestfallen at seeing his old teammates on other teams as a result of faulty trades, Simpson didn't have a role on a team which was starting from scratch.

So he was sent to the 49ers for a package made up exclusively of draft choices. Knox felt it was the best deal he was able to make, considering Juice's age and the uncertainty of his physical condition.

Just how well the Bills make out in the barter depends upon how judiciously they used and will use the draft choices.

In the last few years the Bills squandered their draft picks on total flops. That's one reason owner Ralph Wilson signed Knox to a 6-year contract for \$200,000 a year.

Knox knew nothing but success with the Los Angeles Rams. He won five division titles in his five seasons in LA. But Angelinos crabbed about the Rams being eliminated in the playoffs.

The standards of the Buffalo fans aren't that high—yet. They would be satisfied with respectability at first.

Knox went about acquiring respect by re-organizing the football operation, starting with the personnel department. He made it clear that he feels anyone drafted by the Bills in the first five rounds from now on will make

the team and contribute.

On the football field, Knox does inherit some first-class assets, despite the record. Almost all the assets are on offense.

He starts with an established quarterback, Joe Ferguson, who has been the Buffalo starter since 1973. Fergy threw for 2803 yards last season, highest total in the NFL.

It was a deceptive figure, since the Bills were behind so much that they threw far more than they really desired to.

Knox is a coach who likes to run the ball. His Los Angeles team ran the ball more than any team in football last year. Only the New York Jets ran fewer times than Buffalo did in '77.

Knox knows that Buffalo can be a strong running team again, as they were during O.J.'s most successful years. The Bills still have the nucleus of a good offensive line—all-pro guard Joe DeLamielleure, pulling guard Reggie McKenzie and a developing young tackle, Joe Devlin. Fullback Jim Braxton is a superb blocker.

That influenced Knox to make the pick he did in the college draft: Oklahoma State's great runner Terry Miller, a halfback who ran for 100 or more yards in 19 straight games.

Miller may not be another O.J., but he could be another Terry Metcalf, a Tony Dorsett or a Walter Payton. Gil Brandt, Dallas' highly-esteemed vice president for personnel, predicted Miller would gain 1000 yards in his rookie year.

In the Bills' only major victory last year, an upset over New England, they stayed on the ground and pounded out 155 yards for Roland Hooks, a backup halfback, in the absence of O.J. That was against one of the best anti-run defenses in football.

Knox thinks that's the route to follow.

CHUCK KNOX, ex-Ram coach, is in tough spot, reviving the Buffalo Bills.





JOE FERGUSON, entering sixth pro campaign, threw for 2803 yards last season as the hapless Buffalo Bills were forced to play catchup football.



JOE DeLAMIELLEURE, seven-year vet, is offensive mainstay for Buffalo Bills.

Only New England's John Hannah can give DeLamielleure an argument as to who is the best guard in the NFL. McKenzie was O.J.'s "Main Man," especially running sweeps. Reggie still has the required speed and desire.

Devlin is a big speedy tackle who has an unlimited future. The trouble spots in the line begin with the position opposite him. Dave Foley retired after last season, so the other tackle job is wide open.

In an effort to solve the problem, Knox switched Paul Seymour, the starting tight end for five years, to tackle. Seymour was a tackle his senior year at Michigan and was drafted by the Bills to play that position, but then was pressed into duty at tight end.

Also on hand is Ken Jones, a tough, 250-pounder who wasted his rookie season two years ago playing defensive end in an emergency experiment.

In a just-in-case move, Knox signed Winston Hill, the 36-

year-old, 15-year veteran who used to be an all-pro with the Jets.

Willie Parker moved into Mike Montler's old job at center last year when Montler was shipped to Denver after a contract dispute. But Parker came to the Bills originally in a trade with Los Angeles. Knox was the coach who made the trade for LA, so Parker is vulnerable.

The only other pivot on the roster is untried Connie Zelencik, but Knox may move Bill Adams, a rugged guard who hasn't been able to move DeLamielleure or McKenzie.

The draft brought tackle Eric Smith of Mississippi State and center Will Grant of Kentucky, but both are projects for the future.

To replace Seymour at tight end, Knox has given the job to Reuben Gant, who divided time with Seymour last year. Gant played mostly on passing down, but the coach thinks he can block well enough. Gant averaged 15.8 yards on his 41 catches.

Buffalo's No. 1 receiver is Bob Chandler, who led the NFL wide receivers for the second straight year with 60 catches. His per-catch average was 12.4 yards and most of his receptions came with defenders hanging on his back.

The problem was that the Bills had no other wide receiver to complement him.

John Holland was the leading candidate for the job last year, but missed the last 11 games after suffering a broken jaw. John Kimbrough averaged 20.7 yards on 10 catches in his rookie season, but showed a reluctance to catch over the middle.

Draftee Danny (The Steam Machine) Fulton of Nebraska-Omaha, has as good a chance as anyone.

Also available are veterans Lou Piccone and Len Willis. Battling for a job as backup to Gant is rookie Ken Spaeth of Nebraska.

There is no experienced backup at quarterback. Ferguson played every down last year. Ken Johnson, who played in the WFL, and rookie Fred Besana,



watched. A new entrant is David Fowler, whom Knox had in the Los Angeles training camp last year.

The Bills' draft also brought another highly touted runner, fullback Dennis Johnson of Mississippi State, who is coming back from January knee surgery. Except for that, he may have gone in the first round. He is odds on to back up Braxton, a role played last year by Mike Franckowiak, who may be switched to tight end.

Trying to make Miller justify his reputation will be Hooks, who finished as last year's starter, as well as Mike Collier, Stan Winfrey and Curtis Brown. Winfrey may be switched to fullback, Brown was a promising rookie until a knee injury sidelined him at mid season.

Steve Powell of Northeast Missouri State is another candidate. Defensively the Bills were a disaster last year.

They finished 23 in total defense and 25th against the run. Their 17 sacks were the lowest in the NFL.

The troubles start in the defensive line. Buffalo had two second-round draft choices and used both of them to select defensive linemen, Dee Hardison of North Carolina and Scott Hutchinson of Florida. Both have an excellent chance to start as rookies.

The only incumbent linemen with passing grades was tackle Mike Kadish. Last year's No. 1 draftee, Phil Dokes, hardly played. He'll get a cram course this season.

The incumbent ends are Sherman White and Ben Williams. Patience is running thin with White. Williams makes some great plays and some bad ones. Others in the battle are veteran Bill Dunstan, John Little and Greg Morton.

The linebacking isn't much better than the defensive line play.

Rookie Shane Nelson was one bright spot last year, but he may give way to veteran John Skoruppan, who went out for the season with an early injury. The other outside backer, Dan Jilek, is young and has a chance to improve.

The incumbent middle line-backer, Merv Krakau, has no range and could lose his job to rookie Mario Celotto of Southern California, if Celotto's knees are in healthy condition.

Backups include Tom Ruud, Bo Cornell, Greg Collins, and rookie Gerald Blanton of Kentucky.

The situation is healthier in the secondary. Corner Mario Clark is a first-rate player and Dwight Harrison can be when he is interested. Free safety Tony Greene made the Pro Bowl again. Doug Jones is a hitter at strong safety.

The backups include Keith Moody, one of the NFL's top punt returners, Steve Freeman and Charles Rome.

Both kickers could lose their jobs. Knox brought in veteran Tom Dempsey to challenge place kicker Carson Long. Knox cut Long in LA last year.

Rusty Jackson, who punted for the Rams in '76, will push Marv Bateman whose average is good but allows too many long returns due to his tendency to kick line drives.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Long, 34 points on 13 XP, 7 field goals	32nd
<b>RUSHING</b> —Simpson, 126 carries for 557 yds., 4.4 Avg.	15th
<b>PASSING</b> —Ferguson, 221 of 457 attempts for 2803 yds., 12 TDs	13th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Chandler, 60 receptions for 745 yds., 12.4 Avg., 4 TDs	2nd
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Greene, 9 for 144 yds., 16.0 Avg.	2nd
<b>PUNTING</b> —Bateman, 81 punts, 39.9 Avg., longest 75 yds.	4th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Moody, 15 for 196 yds., 13.1 Avg., 1 TD	3rd
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Kimbrough, 15 for 346 yds., 23.1 Avg.	6th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 5 AT Detroit (N)
12 CLEVELAND (N)
19 DENVER (N)
26 AT Minnesota (N)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3 PITTSBURGH	1977 Scores
	10 N.Y. JETS 4 p.m.	19-24
	17 AT Miami 4 p.m.	14-31
	24 BALTIMORE	13-31
Oct.	1 KANSAS CITY	—
	8 AT N.Y. Jets	14-10
	15 AT Houston	—
	22 CINCINNATI	—
	29 AT Cleveland	16-27
Nov.	5 NEW ENGLAND	7-20
	12 MIAMI	0-13
	18 AT Tampa Bay	—
	26 N.Y. GIANTS	—
Dec.	3 AT Kansas City	—
	10 AT New England	24-14
	17 AT Baltimore	14-17



TERRY MILLER could become the Buffalo Bills top rusher in rookie season.

#### BILLS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
60	Adams, Bill	G	6-2	246	27	6	Holy Cross
7	Bateman, Marv	P	6-4	215	27	7	Utah
11	Besana, Fred	QB	6-4	200	23	1	California
	Blackwell, Willie	LB	6-2	225	23	1	Mor. Brown
34	Braxton, Jim	RB	6-1	240	28	8	West Va.
47	Brown, Curtis	RB	5-10	203	23	2	Missouri
81	Chandler, Bob	WR	6-1	180	28	8	So. Calif.
29	Clark, Mario	CB	6-2	195	23	3	Oregon
35	Collins, Mike	RB	5-11	200	24	3	Morgan St.
50	Collins, Greg	LB	6-2	235	25	4	Notre Dame
30	Cornell, Bo	LB	6-2	220	28	8	Washington
68	DeLamielleure, J.	G	6-3	245	26	6	Michigan St.
	Dempsey, Tom	K	6-1	260	31	10	Palomar
70	Devlin, Joe	T	6-5	250	23	3	Iowa
85	Dokes, Phil	DE	6-5	255	22	2	Oklahoma St.
76	Dunstan, Bill	DT	6-4	255	28	6	Utah St.
12	Ferguson, Joe	QB	6-1	195	27	6	Arkansas
78	Foley, Dave	T	6-5	247	30	9	Ohio St.
	Fowler, David	QB	6-2	200	23	1	Memphis St.
36	Franckowiak, M.	RB	6-3	225	24	4	Cent. Mich.
22	Freeman, Steve	DE	5-11	185	24	4	Miss. State
88	Gant, Reuben	TE	6-4	225	25	5	Oklahoma St.
43	Greene, Tony	S	5-10	175	28	8	Maryland
	Harriman, Brad	G	6-5	267	23	1	Rolla
28	Harrison, D.	CB	6-2	185	29	8	Texas A&M
	Hill, Winston	T	6-4	290	36	16	Tenn. State
80	Holland, John	WR	6-1	190	25	5	Tenn. State
25	Hooks, Roland	RB	6-0	195	24	3	N.C. State
51	Jilek, Dan	LB	6-2	225	24	3	Michigan
14	Johnson, Ken	QB	6-2	205	26	2	Colorado
24	Jones, Doug	S	6-2	205	26	5	Cal-State
73	Jones, Ken	T	6-5	250	25	3	Arkansas St.
71	Kadish, Mike	DT	6-5	270	27	6	Notre Dame
82	Kimbrough, J.	WR	5-10	165	23	2	St. Cloud
52	Krakau, Merv	LB	6-2	230	26	6	Iowa St.
72	Little, John	DT	6-3	250	30	9	Oklahoma St.
5	Long, Carson	K	5-10	200	23	2	Pittsburgh
67	McKenzie, R.	G	6-4	242	27	7	Michigan
46	Moody, Keith	DB	5-10	170	24	3	Syracuse
79	Morton, Greg	DE	6-1	230	24	2	Michigan
56	Nelson, Bob	LB	6-4	232	24	4	Nebraska
59	Nelson, Shane	LB	6-1	225	22	2	Baylor
61	Parker, Willie	C	6-3	245	29	7	N. Tex. St.
89	Piccone, Lou	WR	5-9	175	28	5	W. Liberty
26	Romes, Charles	DB	6-1	190	24	2	N.C. Central
54	Ruud, Tom	LB	6-3	230	24	4	Nebraska
87	Seymour, Paul	TE	6-5	245	27	6	Michigan
55	Skoruppan, John	LB	6-3	225	26	6	Penn St.
83	White, Sherman	DE	6-5	250	29	7	California
77	Williams, Ben	DE	6-3	245	23	3	Mississippi
86	Willis, Len	WR	5-11	185	24	3	Ohio St.
38	Winfrey, Stan	RB	5-11	220	24	4	Ark. St.
53	Zelencik, Connie	C	6-4	245	22	2	Purdue

#### DRAFTED

Round	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	Miller, Terry	RB	5-10	196	22	Oklahoma St.
2	Hardison, Dee	DE	6-4	269	22	N. Carolina
	Hutchinson, S.	DE	6-4	243	22	Florida
3	Johnson, Dennis	RB	6-3	220	22	Miss. St.
	Fulton, Danny	WR	6-2	180	22	Omaha
4	Sanford, Lucius	LB	6-2	217	22	Geo. Tech
5	Spaeth, Ken	TE	6-4	238	23	Nebraska
6	Smith, Eric	T	6-4	263	22	So. Miss.
7	Celotto, Mario	LB	6-3	234	22	So. Calif.
	Powell, Steve	RB	5-11	186	22	NE Mo. St.
10	Grant, Will	C	6-3	248	23	Kentucky
11	Blanton, Gerald	LB	6-1	235	21	Kentucky
12	Crump, Richard	RB	6-0	205	23	Oklahoma A&M

#### FREE AGENTS

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
Blackwell, Willie	LB	6-2	225	23	1	Mor. Brown
Bucher, James	TE	6-4	220	23	1	Catawba
Fowler, David	QB	6-2	200	24	1	Memphis St.
Harriman, Brad	G	6-5	267	23	1	Rolla-Mo.
Harvey, David	P	6-0	180	24	R	Northridge
Johnson, Gerald	WR	6-1	198	23	1	J. C. Smith
Nichols, Sam	G	6-1	245	22	R	Miss. St.
Quartaro, Nick	K	6-1	210	22	R	Iowa
Sark, Earl	P-K	6-2	200	25	1	N. Mex. St.
Switzer, Marvin	S	6-0	192	23	R	Kansas St.
Wingard, Walter	FB	5-10	192	25	1	Dayton
Zackery, Willie	WR	6-1	185	21	1	Central (O.)

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September 19, 1977	Pittsburg	(-13)	over San Francisco	Win 27-0
October 1, 1977	Michigan	(-7½)	over Texas A&M	Win 41-3
October 15, 1977	Michigan	(-18)	over Wisconsin	Win 56-0
October 23, 1977	New England	(-2)	over Baltimore	Win 17-3
November 5, 1977	Georgia	(+4)	over Florida	lose 17-22
November 24, 1977	Miami	(+4)	over St. Louis	Win Outright 55-14
December 28, 1977	N.C. State	(+3)	over Iowa State	Win Outright 24-14
January 2, 1978	Arkansas	(+17)	over Oklahoma	Win Outright 35-6

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# NEW YORK JETS

**WALT MICHAELS, Coach.**  
*Assistants: Bob Fry, Joe Gardi,  
 Dan Henning, Dan Sekanovich,  
 Bob Ledbetter, John Idzik, John  
 Mazur.*

## PREDICTION 5th

In New York, followers of the Jets seem to be going overboard for the team's new coach, Walt Michaels.

The Jets won only three games in Michaels' first season as head coach, but still it was "Walt this . . . and . . . Walt that."

Certain types of players are spoken of as "Michaels' players."

Who can blame them for wanting Michaels to succeed? New York football has been so dismal the last several years, both with the Jets and the Giants, and there has been so much instability in coaching jobs for both teams, that it's a natural thing.

Even the Jets' new president and chief operating officer, Jim Kensil, caught Michaels' fever. Kensil was known as a hard-nosed realist when he was Pete Rozelle's No. 1 aide, but he has all but committed himself to Walt.

The truth is that the Jets were 3-11 with Michaels, the same as they were in 1976 and 1975, without Michaels. The truth is that after beating Buffalo and New England on consecutive Sundays early in the season, the Jets went 1-9 for the rest of the year.

There were some near misses against good teams such as Oakland and Pittsburgh, but there was a dismal loss to a dismal Buffalo team in the next-to-last game and a 27-0 loss to the resoundingly mediocre Philadelphia Eagles on getaway day.

"Realistically, you don't cover up a 3-11 record," admits Michaels. "But in their hearts, the players feel they are better than that, and I agree with them. I think we took a big step forward."

Any further steps forward depend a great deal on how Richard Todd progresses as a pro quarterback.

Todd started surprisingly well in his second pro year. At mid-season the Jets led the AFC in



RICHARD TODD, New York Jets' quarterback, completed 50 percent of passes for 1863 yards last season, although missing three games due to injury.

passing. It was his first season without the spectre of Joe Namath in the background.

Then he suffered a knee injury which put him out of the lineup for three games. When he returned, he never looked as sharp as he did early in the season. The Jets blame their blue finish on his injury.

"I think Richard silenced his critics last year," says Michaels. "Now he's received a clean bill of health."

Todd threw for 1863 yards and 11 touchdowns, compiling a 50.2 completion percentage. That isn't bad for a second-year quarterback. He also showed a sound tendency to stay in the passing pocket.

Todd was helped a great deal by a lineup shuffle made by Michaels.

The coach shifted Richard Caster from tight end to wide receiver and brought Jerome Barkum from wide receiver to tight end. Barkum had played the tight position in college, so

the transition wasn't all that tough for him.

Barkum caught 26 passes, six of which went for touchdowns. His per-catch average was a high, 17.3. Caster got hurt shortly after the change, but he averaged 20.5 yards on his 10 catches.

The biggest change was the addition of rookie Wesley Walker. The swift kid from California dropped a lot of balls, particularly at the start, but he ended up with 35 catches for a 21.1-yard average, including the third-longest touchdown catch of the NFL season, 87 yards.

Todd still uses fullback Clark Gaines as a security blanket. Gaines led the team in receptions again with 55. Clark also was the team's rushing leader for the second time in as many years with 595.

Which brings us to a controversy.

Gaines is a good back, a man who was signed as a free agent in 1976 and made the all-rookie team. But it's doubtful if he

could start on many other clubs.

Yet the Jets turned down a chance to draft Terry Miller, the Oklahoma running star, in the first round of the draft. Instead, they picked Chris Ward, the 6-3, 274 pound Ohio State tackle who was considered the best offensive lineman in college football.

That's no knock against Ward. He and last year's No. 1, Marvin Powell, give the Jets the most promising pair of young tackles in the NFL.

But if Gaines is the best back the Jets possess, they are in trouble with their ground game. The highest-drafted back among their rookies is Dodie Donnell, a straight-ahead power back from Nebraska.

Lined up alongside Gaines will be Scott Dierking, another full-back type who averaged 4 yards a carry on 79 carries. Behind them are Kevin Long and Tom Newton, both of whom had un-

distinguished rookie seasons.

The only back with size and speed is Charles White. He had the team's longest run from scrimmage, 27 yards, in 1977. But White is mistake plagued and he is a fumbler. Also on this year's list is little Louie Giammona, who missed last season due to injury.

Bruce Harper had the best per-carry average, 4.5 yards in 44 trips, last year, but at 5-8 and 174 pounds, he's really a return specialist. He does that very well, averaging 12.5 yards a punt return and 24.6 a kickoff return in his rookie season.

Not surprisingly, the Jets ended up third from the bottom of the NFL in ground gaining.

With Ward obviously set to start, veteran Gary Puetz can move over from tackle to team with Randy Rasmussen at guard. Joe Fields is the center. They should get a lot of pass blocking work in front of Todd, consider-

ing the shape of the running game.

Darrell Austin and Dan Alexander, who converted from defensive lineman in his rookie year, also are guard candidates. John Roman and Jeff Bleamer are extra tackles with Ken Helms a backup center. Other than Ward, the Jets didn't draft an offensive lineman.

Todd's backup is Matt Robinson, who played some as a rookie. Marty Domres retired.

The most promising backup wide receiver is Sheldon Diggs, who was claimed off Atlanta's waiver list as a rookie, then got hurt as a Jet. Harper also is listed there.

Mickey Schuler, a hard-blocking tight end from Penn State, was the third-round draft choice. Bob Raba is the only other experienced tight end on the roster.

The Jets had the worst pass defense in the NFL last year. They finished third from the bot-

SCOTT DIERKING was Jets second best rusher with 315 yards in 1977.



WESLEY WALKER averaged 21.1 yards per catch, tops in the NFL.



RICHARD CASTER caught only 10 passes in 1977 because of injury.







JOE KLECKO finished strong at DT for the New York Jets in 1977 campaign.

tom overall and fifth from the bottom in defense against the run. There were 23 touchdown passes thrown against New York last year, the result of a weak pass rush and weaker corners.

The only bright spot on the defensive line is Joe Klecko, the stubby tackle who got to play the last half of the season and led the Jets in sacks with eight. If the Jets follow the tide and switch to a 3-man line, Klecko would be the ideal nose guard since he played the position at Temple and is quick and strong.

If the pass rush is to improve at all, Michaels will have to get more mileage out of Klecko's colleagues. Carl Barzilauskas, one-time star tackle, was traded to Green Bay.

Lawrence Pillers and John Hennessey are the defensive ends of record, with Richard Neal traded to New Orleans. Ex Oiler Al Burton or a free agent, Greg Murphy, could have something to say. Abdul Salaam finished the season as a starting tackle, but watch for a move from Tank Marshall, a high draft choice out of Texas A&M last year. Marshall missed the whole season due to injury.

Gregg Robinson of Dartmouth is the top drafted defensive lineman.

The outlook is far brighter on the linebacking unit. Greg Buttle's second pro season wasn't as good as his first, but he still looks like a future star. Larry Keller and Bob Martin both have strong potential on the other side. They,

like Buttle, are entering their third pro seasons.

Change should take place at middle linebacker. The Jets have been trying to improve on John Ebersole for a couple of years and it appears they have the man they want in this year's second-round draftee, Mark Merrill, who was a standup defensive end at Minnesota.

Behind the starters are Mike Hennigan and Al Palewicz, but another rookie, Randy Sidler of Penn State, has them worried.

Another bright spot is safety. Free safety Burgess Owens might be an all-pro type with a better team. Shafer Suggs could make it big if he ever stays away from injuries. Artimus Parker and Ken Schory back them up.

The outlook is not good at corner back. Billy Hardee and Ed Taylor led off the depth chart, with Maurice Tyler backing the up, but the Jets drafted five defensive backs—Bobby Jackson of Florida State, Levi Armstrong of UCLA, Roy Eppes of Clemson, Reggie Grant of Oregon and Neil Hutton of Penn State. All will be auditioned at corner.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Leahy, 63 points on 18 XP, 15 field goals	11th
<b>RUSHING</b> —Gaines, 158 carries for 595 yds., 3.8 Avg., 3 TDs	13th
<b>PASSING</b> —Todd, 133 of 265 attempts for 1863 yds., 11 TDs	10th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Gaines, (rb), 55 receptions for 469 yds., 8.5 Avg., 1 TD	3rd
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Owens, 3 for 18 yds., 6.0 Avg.	49th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Ramsey, 62 punts, 37.1 Avg., longest 61 yds.	12th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Harper, 34 for 425 yds., 12.5 Avg.	6th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Harper, 42 for 1035 yds., 24.6 Avg.	4th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 7	ATLANTA at Meadowland (N)
12	AT N.Y. Giants (N)
19	AT San Diego (6 p.m.)
25	AT Philadelphia (N)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3	MIAMI	10-14
10	AT Buffalo 4 p.m.	24-19
17	SEATTLE	0-17
24	AT Washington	—
Oct. 1	PITTSBURGH	20-23
8	BUFFALO	10-14
15	AT Baltimore	12-33
22	ST. LOUIS	—
29	AT New England	13-24
Nov. 5	AT Denver	—
12	AT Philadelphia	0-27
19	NEW ENGLAND	30-27
26	AT Miami	17-21
Dec. 3	BALTIMORE	12-20
10	AT Cleveland	—
17	DALLAS	—

#### 1977 Scores

#### STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

Pat Leahy kicked 15 of 25 field goals last year, but punter Chuck Ramsey's 37.1-yard average doesn't make him secure. Drafted were Mike Mock of Texas Tech, who also plays linebacker, and Alan Williams of Florida.

#### JETS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs.	College
60	Alexander, Dan	G	6-4	245	22	2	L.S.U.
67	Austin, Darrel	G-C	6-4	252	26	4	So. Carolina
83	Barkum, Jerome	TE	6-4	217	27	7	Jackson St.
71	Bleamer, Jeff	T	6-4	253	24	4	Penn St.
72	Burton, Al	DE-T	6-5	265	25	3	B.-Cookman
	Butler, Gerald	WR	6-5	210	23	2	Nicholls St.
51	Buttle, Greg	LB	6-3	229	23	3	Penn St.
88	Caster, Rich	WR	6-5	230	29	9	Jackson St.
	Coleman, Don	LB	6-2	227	25	3	Michigan
25	Dierking, Scott	RB	5-10	215	22	2	Purdue
80	Diggs, Shelton	WR	6-1	190	22	2	So. Calif.
55	Ebersole, John	LB	6-3	235	29	9	Penn St.
65	Fields, Joe	C-G	6-2	245	24	4	Widener
21	Gaines, Clark	RB	6-1	201	23	3	Wake Forest
45	Giammona, L.	RB-KR	5-9	180	24	2	Utah St.
37	Hardee, Billy	CB	6-0	185	23	2	Va. Tech
42	Harper, B.	RB-KR	5-8	174	22	2	Kutztown St.
63	Hennessey, John	DE	6-3	246	22	2	Michigan
52	Hennigan, Mike	LB	6-2	215	26	6	Tenn.Tech
56	Keller, Larry	LB	6-2	225	24	3	Houston
73	Klecko, Joe	DT	6-3	256	24	2	Temple
5	Leahy, Pat	K	6-0	190	26	5	St. Louis
33	Long, Kevin	RB	6-1	205	22	2	So. Carolina
27	Mabry, Ron	CB	5-10	170	26	4	Howard
68	Marshall, Tank	DT	6-4	245	22	2	Texas A&M
59	Martin, Bob	LB	6-1	223	24	3	Nebraska
	Nemeth, Brian	TE	6-5	224		1	So. Carolina
44	Newton, Tom	RB	6-0	205	23	2	California
22	Owens, Burgess	FS	6-2	195	26	6	Miami (Fla.)
53	Palewicz, Al	LB	6-2	220	27	5	Miami (Fla.)
24	Parker, Artimus	SS	6-4	200	25	5	So. Calif.
76	Pillers, L.	DE	6-3	257	25	3	Alcorn St.
	Powell, Darnell	RB	5-11	200	23	2	Chattanooga
79	Powell, Marvin	T	6-5	264	22	2	So. Calif.
78	Puetz, Garry	T	6-4	265	25	6	Valparaiso
86	Raba, Bob	TE	6-1	222	22	2	Maryland
15	Ramsey, Chuck	P	6-2	195	25	2	Wake Forest
66	Rasmussen, R.	G	6-2	255	32	12	Kearney St.
17	Robinson, Matt	QB	6-2	196	22	2	Georgia
61	Roman, John	T-G	6-4	251	25	3	Idaho St.
74	Salaam, Abdul	DT	6-3	260	24	3	Kent St.
48	Schroy, Ken	S-CB	6-2	191	25	2	Maryland
23	Suggs, Shafer	SS	6-1	200	24	3	Ball St.
38	Taylor, Ed	CB	6-0	176	24	4	Memphis St.
	Terry, Anthony	CB	6-0	180		2	Cal.-Davis
14	Todd, Richard	QB	6-2	205	24	3	Alabama
39	Tyler, Maurice	CB	6-0	190	27	7	Morgan St.
85	Walker, Wesley	WR	6-0	182	22	2	California
30	White, Charlie	RB	6-0	222	24	2	B.-Cookman
	*Free Agent						

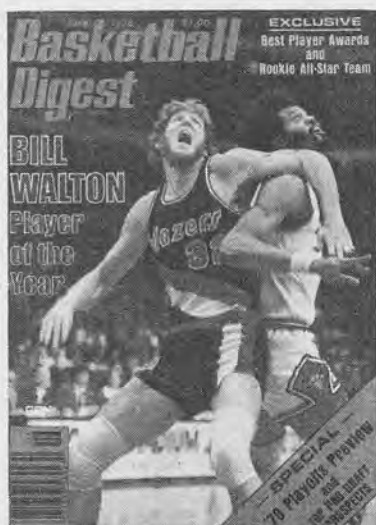
#### DRAFTIES

Round	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	Ward, Chris	T-G	6-3	275	22	Ohio St.
2	Merrill, Mark	MLB	6-4	237	22	Minnesota
3	Shuler, Mickey	TE	6-3	235	21	Penn St.
4	Donnell, Dodie	FB	6-0	225	22	Nebraska
5	Sidler, Randy	LB	6-3	231	21	Penn St.
6	Jackson, Bobby	CB	5-9	171	21	Florida St.
7	Robinson, Gregg	DT	6-6	260	21	Dartmouth
7	Armstrong, Levi	CB	5-11	180	21	UCLA
8	Earley, Jim	FB	6-1	230	21	Mich. St.
8	Gaffney, Derrick	WR	6-0	175	22	Florida
9	Mock, Mike	P-LB	6-1	220	22	Tex. Tech
9	Eppes, Roy	S	6-1	180	23	Clemson
9	Grant, Reggie	CB	5-9	180	22	Oregon
10	Hutton, Neil	SB	5-10	180	22	Penn St.
11	Richardson, Lou	DE	6-4	240	23	Florida St.
11	Ryan, Pat	QB	6-3	205	22	Tennessee
12	Williams, Alan	P	6-2	200	22	Florida

#### FREE AGENTS

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
Benimeo, Mario	DT	6-2	245	21	Montclair St.
Benson, Kevin	LB	6-0	220	23	Maryland
Covin, Don	CB	5-10	190	21	Trenton St.
Cumberworth, M.	G	6-3	250	22	Louisville
Fenner, Don	DT	6-0	245	21	C.W. Post
Grupp, Bob	P-DB	6-0	195	22	Duke
Harrell, Jim	WR	5-9	185	22	Ohio St.
Harris, Mike	CB	5-9	175	23	Grambling
Hughes, Mike	T	6-4	245	23	Baylor
Jenkins, Willie	S	6-0	175	23	Miami (Fla.)
Jones, Bobby	WR	5-11	180	22	None
Kelly, Roosevelt	LB	6-4	235	23	East. Ky.
Lowery, Nick	K	6-4	190	21	Dartmouth
Mathieson, S.	QB	6-5	215	23	Florida St.
McBride, Cliff	QB	6-3	185	22	Washington
Murphy, G.	DE-DT	6-2	250	24	Penn St.
Pennella, Rich	P	6-2	212	22	Louisville
Ramsey, Terry	LB	6-1	225	21	Connecticut
Stephens, B.	WR-CB	5-10	180	21	Columbia
Terry, Tony	CB	6-1	175	24	Cal.-Davis
White, Chuck	WR	6-1	185	22	Maryland

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# CINCINNATI BENGALS

**BILL JOHNSON, Coach.**

**Assistants:** Mike McCormack, Chuck Studley, Kim Wood, Howard Brinker, Charley Winner, Boyd Dowler, Jack Donaldson, Jack Sejcik.

## PREDICTION 1st

**W**ant a candidate for "Flop of the Year" in the National Football League in 1977? Try the Cincinnati Bengals.

The Bengals seemed geared up for a shot at the Pittsburgh Steelers and the championship of the Central Division last year. Or at least a shot at the playoffs.

That's what everyone thought.

In game No. 1, the Bengals were beaten by lightly-regarded Cleveland, 13-3. In Game No. 3 they were bombed by lightly-regarded San Diego, 24-3.

After six weeks of the season they had a 2-4 record.

It took a 4-game winning streak late in the season, when the division title was all but settled, to make their record look respectable. And the streak came only after Minnesota, a team which scored 14 or fewer points in 9 of their 14 games, bombed the Bengals, 44-20, to wake them up.

Is this the beginning of the end before the beginning was even accomplished? Were the young Bengals of a few seasons ago just a Roman candle?

The answer to both questions is "No." At least, "probably No."

Cincinnati has the same kind of expectations which it had before the start of last season. If the expectations aren't realized, it may cost Head Coach Bill Johnson his job.

It would be unfair to finger just one man for the Bengals' decline of last season, but Ken Anderson is catching a lot of the blame.

The veteran quarterback slipped a bit statistically in most categories, but nothing disastrous. Rather than statistics it was a drop in big-play production for Anderson.

Anderson just didn't carve up as many defenses as Cincinnati fans are accustomed to seeing him do. It was a disappointment, but even those defenses wouldn't be surprised to see Ken back in his role of master carver this year.

Some of Anderson's troubles can be traced to the loss of his ace receiver, Isaac Curtis, for the last half of the season. But then, the Bengals had most of their problems in the first half.

Curtis, who averaged 17 yards a catch on his 20 receptions, should be back strongly after knee surgery. In his absence, young Billy Brooks became Anderson's bomb catcher. Brooks had 39 receptions for a 19.8-yard average and four touchdowns.

Johnson will have to make a thorny decision about the tight end position. Bob Trumpy, one of the original Bengals, retired after the last season.

Last year the Bengals made Michigan State tight end Mike Cobb one of their three first-round draft choices, in anticipation of Trumpy's departure. But around the NFL the word is that Cobb may be one of the few mistakes Cincinnati made in their last three or four drafts.

Fortunately, the Bengals also picked two other tight ends in that draft, Jim Corbett of Pitt and Rick Walker of UCLA. Corbett played more than the other two and averaged 18.1 yards on his seven catches.

When Curtis got hurt, Johnson started using punter Pat McNally opposite Brooks. McNally did well. He caught the game-winning, 43-yard touchdown pass against Pittsburgh in a game which momentarily put the Bengals back into the race. McNally averaged 15.2-yards on his 17 catches and scored three times.

John McDaniels is another ex-

perienced substitute.

The Bengals spent the last two years trying to build a running attack and still are far from finishing the job. Rookie fullback Pete Johnson gave them some hope last year by leading the team in ground gaining with 583 yards on 152 carries.

Archie Griffin, Johnson's old Heisman Trophy winner running mate at Ohio State, gained 549 yards in 137 carries. Behind Griffin are Lenvil Elliott, a top pass catcher, and kick return specialist Willie Shelby.

**KEN ANDERSON, QB,** disappointing last year, figures to bounce back.



Bobbie Clark backs up Johnson, but the ex starter may find that his days are numbered in Cincinnati. Tony Davis is the third fullback.

Anderson has a veteran backup at quarterback, John Reaves.

The draft brought three interesting players in the "skill" positions. Deacon Turner is a speedy, powerful runner from San Diego State. Don Bass of Houston was one of many top wide receivers in college football last year. Rob Hertel of Southern California could be a surprise quarterback unless he opts to sign a baseball contract. He was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in that sport.

There will be at least one shakeup in the offensive line.

John Shinnars, one of the messenger guards retired. Glenn Bujnoch broke in as Shinnars' fellow messenger last year. The likely man to be promoted is Greg Fairchild, who has two



BILL JOHNSON, Bengals' coach, makes stride towards top season.

years of experience as a reserve. Dave Lapham plays all the time at the other guard spot.

The top tackle is Vernon Holland, whom the Bengals feel is underrated. His partner is Rufus Mayes, backed up by Ron Hunt. Bob Johnson heads into his 11th season as the center. His heir was drafted in Round 1 this year. He's Blair Bush of the University of Washington.

The offensive line could take

on a different complexion if Mike Wilson is successful in buying out of his contract with the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian League. Wilson signed with Toronto before last year's draft, in which he was projected as a first-rounder. The Bengals drafted him on round 4 anyway.

As a rookie, Wilson was runnerup as the CLF's lineman of the year. He could play either guard or tackle for Cincinnati.

The expectation is that coach Johnson will switch from an orthodox defense to a 3-man line with four linebackers.

The Bengals ranked just 23d in the league in pass defense last year and had only 25 sacks. Coy Bacon, the big defensive end who made 26 by himself in 1976, has been traded to Washington.

Two rookies started in the line last year. Both Wilson Whitely and Eddie Edwards were tackles. Johnson called Edwards

LEMAR PARRISH, left, Cincinnati Bengal cornerback, shows ability which earned him Pro Bowl honor six times. ISAAC CURTIS, Cincinnati Bengals' top receiver, injured knee in November and missed last half of season.





"the finest rookie defensive lineman I've ever seen." Both players were drafted on the first round last year. This year the Bengals took another defensive lineman, Notre Dame All-America Ross Browner.

There was some talk of playing Browner, an end all his college career, at nose guard. But that seems an ideal place for Whitley, too.

Edwards will move easily to end, where Bacon and young Gary Burley started last year. The top-drafted rookie besides Browner, was Ted Vincent of San Diego State. Also available is veteran reserve Ken Johnson.

By playing four linebackers, Johnson can move Glenn Cameron, a first-round draftee two years ago, into the starting lineup. Cameron couldn't move six-year veteran Jim LeClair, one of the best middle linebackers in the NFL.

The outside men are young and experienced, Reggie Williams and Bo Harris. Ray Phillips and Chris Devlin are the backups. The leading rookie is Tom Dinkel of Kansas.

The secondary is the strongest defensive area, despite the pass defense ranking.

Both corner back Lemar Parrish and free safety Tommy Casanova went to the pro Bowl

JIM LeCLAIR, six-year Bengal veteran, is one of best middle linebackers.



again. But Parrish has moved with Bacon to the Washington Redskins for their first-round draft pick in 1979.

Parrish's corner partner Ken Riley is the team's all-time interception leader. Melvin Morgan, who made a reputation for himself as a head-hunting hitter, and speedy Scott Perry, are backups. Perry was hurt most of last season.

Marvin Cobb plays opposite Casanova, at strong safety. He could be pushed by Jerry Anderson, who played well in his rookie season last year.

There is a first-rate rookie candidate for the secondary, Ohio State's Ray Griffin, Archie's younger brother. Like Archie, he has plenty of talent but is handicapped by lack of size. Also on hand is Lou Breeden, who missed his rookie year last season due to injury.

Place kicker Chris Bahr showed good improvement in his second pro season, succeeding on 19 of 27 field goal tries. McNally led the NFL in net punting average.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Bahr, 82 points on 25 XP, 18 field goals	3rd
<b>RUSHING</b> —P. Johnson, 152 carries for 583 yds., 3.8 Avg., 4 TDs	14th
<b>PASSING</b> —K. Anderson, 166 of 323 attempts for 2145 yds., 11 TDs	6th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Brooks, 39 receptions for 772 yds., 19.8 Avg., 4 TDs	16th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Parrish, 3 for 95 yds., 31.7 Avg., 1 TD	30th
<b>PUNTING</b> —McNally, 67 punts, 41.8 Avg., longest 67 yds.	2nd
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Davis, 19 for 220 yds., 11.6 Avg.	2nd
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Shelby, 19 for 403 yds., 21.2 Avg.	11th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug.	5 TAMPA BAY (N)
	12 DETROIT (N)
	19 CHICAGO (N)
	26 Green Bay (Mil.)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

Sept.	3 KANSAS CITY	27-7
	10 AT Cleveland	10-7
	17 PITTSBURGH	17-10
	24 NEW ORLEANS	—
Oct.	1 AT San Francisco	—
	9 AT Miami (N)	23-17
	15 NEW ENGLAND	—
	22 AT Buffalo	—
	29 HOUSTON	13-10
Nov.	5 AT San Diego	3-24
	13 OAKLAND (N)	—
	19 AT Pittsburgh	14-20
	26 AT Houston 4 p.m.	16-21
Dec.	3 ATLANTA	—
	11 AT Los Angeles 6 p.m.	—
	17 CLEVELAND	3-13

#### 1977 Scores



ROSS BROWNER, first-round pick, bolsters Cincinnati Bengals defensive line.

#### BENGALS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
31	Anderson, Jerry	CB	5-11	198	22	2	Oklahoma
14	Anderson, Ken	QB	6-2	212	28	7	Augustana
10	Bahr, Chris	PK	5-9	168	24	2	Penn St.
	Breeden, Louis	DB	5-11	180	23	1	N.C. Central
82	Brooks, Billy	WR	6-3	202	24	2	Oklahoma
74	Bujnoch, Glenn	G	6-5	251	23	2	Texas A&M
67	Burley, Gary	DE	6-3	265	24	2	Pittsburgh
50	Cameron, Glenn	LB	6-1	217	24	3	Florida
37	Casanova, Tom	S	6-2	196	27	6	LSU
42	Clark, Boobie	RB	6-2	242	26	5	B.-Cookman
24	Cobb, Marvin	S	6-0	191	24	3	So. Calif.
89	Cobb, Mike	TE	6-5	248	21	2	Michigan St.
81	Corbett, Jim	TE	6-5	214	22	2	Pittsburgh
85	Curtis, Isaac	WR	6-1	192	26	5	S. Diego St.
25	Davis, Tony	LB	5-10	210	23	2	Nebraska
51	Devlin, Chris	LB	6-2	228	23	3	Penn St.
73	Edwards, Eddie	DT	6-4	256	23	2	Miami (Fla.)
36	Elliott, Lenvil	RB	6-0	208	26	5	NE Mo. State
63	Falchid, Greg	G-T	6-4	257	23	2	Tulsa
45	Griffin, Archie	RB	5-9	193	23	2	Ohio St.
53	Harris, Bo	LB	6-3	221	24	3	LSU
83	Holden, S.	WR-KR	6-1	200	25	6	Arizona St.
76	Holland, Vernon	T	6-5	265	29	7	Tenn. State
72	Hunt, Ron	T	6-6	255	22	2	Oregon
54	Johnson, Bob	C	6-5	256	30	10	Tennessee
80	Johnson, Ken	DE	6-6	258	30	7	Indiana
46	Johnson, Pete	RB	6-0	240	23	2	Ohio St.
62	Lapham, Dave	G	6-4	259	25	4	Syracuse
55	Leclair, Jim	LB	6-3	238	27	6	No. Dakota
71	Mayes, Rufus	T	6-5	256	28	9	Ohio St.
86	McDaniel, John	WR	6-1	197	25	4	Lincoln
87	McNally, Pat	P-WR	6-6	210	24	2	Harvard
21	Morgan, Melvin	DB	6-0	186	24	2	Miss. Valley
32	Perry, Scott	DB	6-0	182	23	2	Williams
59	Phillips, Ray	LB	6-3	221	23	2	Nebraska
60	Pritchard, Ron	LB	6-1	228	30	9	Arizona St.
11	Reaves, John	QB	6-3	210	26	6	Florida
13	Riley, Ken	CB	6-0	185	29	9	Fla. A&M
30	Shelby, Willie	RB	5-11	198	24	2	Alabama
88	Walker, Rick	TE	6-3	237	21	2	UCLA
	Weinlein, Gary	DB	5-11	190	24	1	No College
16	Wells, Mike	QB	6-5	225	26	3	Illinois
75	Whitley, Wilson	DT	6-3	264	22		Houston
57	Williams, Reggie	LB	6-1	228	23	2	Dartmouth

#### DRAFTIES

Round	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	Browner, Ross	DL	6-3	262	23
	Bush, Blair	C	6-3	250	21
2	Griffin, Ray	CB	5-9	184	21
	Turner, Dave	RB	5-11	212	22
3	Vincent, Ted	DL	6-4	260	21
	Bass, Don	WR	6-2	210	21
4	Law, Dennis	WR	6-0	178	23
	Dinkel, Tom	LB	6-3	240	21
	Hertel, Rob	QB	6-1	191	22
5	Geise, Steve	RB	6-1	210	21
	Branson, Joseph	S	6-1	190	21
	Bass, Danny	T	6-2	281	22
6	Miller, William	T	6-7	282	22
	Shumon, Ron	LB	6-1	225	22
8	Depaso, Tom	LB	6-2	222	22
11	Prince, Cal	RB	5-9	195	21
	Donahue, Mark	G	6-2	245	22
12	Featsent, Kim	WR	6-1	191	21
					Notre Dame
					Washington
					Ohio St.
					S. Diego St.
					Wichita
					Houston
					E. Tenn. St.
					Kansas
					USC
					Penn St.
					Livingstone
					Elon
					West. Illinois
					Wichita St.
					Penn St.
					Louisville
					Michigan
					Kent St.

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# PITTSBURGH STEELERS

**CHUCK NOLL, Coach.**

*Assistants: Lou Riecke, Dick Hoak, George Perles, Paul Uram, Woody Widenhofer, Tom Moore, Dick Walker, Rollie Dotsch.*

## PREDICTION 2nd

**T**he Pittsburgh Steelers were a changed team in 1977 and it wasn't for the better.

The Steelers didn't intimidate teams as they did in recent years. They didn't compile a string of shutouts or near-shutouts as they did in 1976. They didn't force turnovers, they committed them.

But they still made the playoffs, as usual.

Except this time they were blown out of the Super Bowl derby, 34-21, by Denver's big second-half rally.

Chuck Noll, the Pittsburgh coach, is said to be ready to make some major changes. It's also said that he won't put up with the disruptions and distractions which kept Steeler minds off football last year.

Noll was a central figure, albeit an unwilling one, to the first dis-

traction. That was the legal suit instituted by Oakland safety George Atkinson against the Steelers and Noll. The coach said some things on the witness stand that upset some of his own players.

Then there was the running dispute between Noll and hold-out corner back Mel Blount. Blount didn't report until three days before the season opened. But once he got there, he played so well that he forced Jimmy Allen to the bench and turned in another all-pro year. Allen had played well in his absence and Allen's demotion upset his supporters on the team, but Blount's excellence virtually forced the move.

As even more important hold-out was that of Jack Lambert, the superb middle linebacker.

Lambert reported late in the exhibition season. He, too, played up to his reputation when he did

report, but then suffered a knee injury which kept him out of three games. Who knows if the lack of conditioning might have contributed? Lambert did come back after the injury and was selected for the pro Bowl.

Andy Russell, one of the greatest linebackers in Steelers history, retired before the '77 season. But the team's No. 1 draftee, Robin Cole, immediately won the vacant job. Then Cole broke his arm in the opening regular-season game.

In the midst of the season, a scandal broke out in Pittsburgh concerning federally-funded jobs. Defensive linemen L. C. Greenwood and Ernie Holmes were linked to the scandal. Running back star Franco Harris was linked indirectly.

It was another unsettling distraction.

When Noll added up his statistics at the end of the season he



**FRANCO HARRIS** carried ball 300 times last season, Pittsburgh record, surpassing 1000 yards for fifth time.

**JACK HAM**, Steelers' All-Pro outside linebacker, has 24 career NFL interceptions, adding four in 1977 season.





TERRY BRADSHAW, playing with cast on left arm for most of last season, passed for career high 2523 yards.

LYNN SWANN returned to his old form in 1977, making 50 catches for Steelers, good for 789 yards, seven TDs.



found that the Steelers allowed 105 more points in '77 than they did in '76. They scored 59 fewer.

They also set team records for turnovers and penalties, both figures putting them second in the NFL for the season.

Now for the good news.

Terry Bradshaw is becoming one of the ranking quarterbacks in the NFL. He's been just a niche below that category, on talent and experience. But now he's taking on a maturity and stability which gives him that little extra he always needed.

Opposing defenses stacked up against the Steeler running game last year, forcing Pittsburgh to pass. Bradshaw was equal to it. He threw for 2523 yards, his career high. His 8.04 per-completion average was the best in the league. He passed for 200 yards or more five times.

Since Bradshaw broke his left wrist in the fourth game of the season, his accomplishments took on even more glitter.

At 30, Bradshaw should be coming into the most productive period of his career.

Bradshaw has first-class receiv-

ers. The wide receivers, Lynn Swann and John Stallworth, caught 94 passes between them as Noll went to a more explosive passing offense, emphasizing the deeper pass. Swann and Stallworth caught 7 touchdown passes each.

Swann averaged 15.8 yards on each of his 50 catches. Stallworth averaged 17.8 on his 44.

There could be another change in the pass offense this year. Bennie Cunningham, the house who plays tight end, is developing at a frightening pace. Last year Noll made an offensive tackle out of Larry Brown, the former starter at tight end. Cunningham took control of the vacancy and caught 20 passes, averaging 17.4 yards per catch.

There is a wide variance in the reserves for the pitch-catch game.

Behind Bradshaw is Mike Kruczek, whose development as an NFL quarterback was retarded by a separated right shoulder after a month of the season. It's a large worry, since Kruczek didn't have a strong passing arm to begin with.

Behind him are journeyman

Neil Graff and second-year man Cliff Stoudt. Stoudt's only asset right now is his strong arm.

The reserve receivers are far more skilled.

The No. 3 wide receiver is Frank Lewis, a one-time starter who average a whopping 23.9 yards on his 11 catches last year. Also available is versatile Theo Bell and kick returner Jim Smith. Randy Grossman, a small possession catcher with a lot of experience, understudies Cunningham. When the situation calls for a double tight end, Brown returns to his old position.

Franco Harris carried the ball more than any back in Pittsburgh history, 300 times, last year and gained 1162 yards. It was the fifth time Franco went over 1000 yards. Only Jim Brown (7) ever did it more often. Another Hall of Famer, Jim Taylor, also had five 1000-yard seasons, as does O. J. Simpson.

In the Steelers' running offense, the fullback does the carrying, the halfback the blocking. That's why Rocky Bleier's age, 32, isn't as much of a worry as it might be.



What does worry Noll is the depth behind Harris and Bleier. Speedy Laverne Smith suffered a badly-broken leg late in the season, Jack Deloplane underwent another knee operation. They represent the only outside speed the Steelers have.

Alvin Maxson, the ex New Orleans Saint, was picked up late in the season. He can spell Bleier. Reggie Harrison, a journeyman, and untested Sidney Thornton back up Harris.

The only drafted rookie is middle-round choice Rich Moser of Rhode Island.

Most of the Steeler line is heavily experienced and the one exception deserves an asterisk. That is the tackle played by Larry Brown, who started for several seasons as tight end. He switched last year and was an immediate hit.

The other tackle is Jon Kolb, near the pro Bowl class. Gerry Mullins and Sam Davis are the guards, but Davis, 34, could be challenged heavily by John Hicks, who was acquired in a trade with the New York Giants. Hicks was a flop with the Giants but his potential is undeniable.

Ted Peterson and Ray Pinney can play tackle or center. Lance Reynolds and Steve Courson are the top rookies.

The Steeler defensive line is not what it once was in the championship seasons, but it's still something with which to contend.

Greenwood obviously has slipped at end, but Dwight White, three years younger, may pick up some of the pass-rush leadership Joe Greene is still a top tackle, but not the dominant player he was a few seasons ago. With Holmes shipped to Tampa Bay, Steve Furness is now Greene's partner.

Another contender is ex Packer Dave Pureifory, who came in another trade.

The Steelers have been drafting to fortify the line for the last couple of years. Tom Beasley, a tall tackle who has pass-rush potential, got hurt before the season started last year but his future is considered bright. The top rookie this year is Willie Fry, speedy end from Notre Dame.

Also on hand are end John Banaszak and tackle Steve Dunn.

It could be that Pittsburgh will join the growing number of teams to use the 3-4 defense.

The Steelers certainly have the linebackers to do it. Jack Lambert probably would have been all-pro middle man again except that he missed some games with injury. Jack Ham and Lambert both were in the Pro Bowl.

The problem last year was to replace retired Andy Russell. The Steelers drafted Robin Cole in the first round and it turned out to be a happy choice until Cole broke his arm in the opening game. In his absence, veteran Loren Towes played very effectively.

"Dirt" Winston was another impressive rookie. Dave LaCrosse will battle rookie Doug Becker of Notre Dame for what may be the last place on the linebacker roster.

Blount had an all-pro year at corner, but his opposite number, J. T. Thomas, had his worst pro season and top reserve Jimmy Allen may have talked himself off the roster.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Harris, 66 points on 11 touchdowns runs	10th
<b>RUSHING</b> —Harris, 300 carries for 1162 yds., 3.9 Avg., 11 TDs	2nd
<b>PASSING</b> —Bradshaw, 162 of 314 attempts for 2523 yds., 17 TDs	5th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Swann, 50 receptions for 789 yds., 15.8 Avg., 7 TDs	6th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Blount, 6 for 65 yds., 10.8 Avg.	8th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Walden, 67 punts, 37.0 Avg., longest 65 yds.	13th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —J. Smith, 36 for 294 yds., 8.2 Avg.	16th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —J. Smith, 16 for 381 yds., 23.8 Avg.	5th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 6 At Baltimore (N)
12 ATLANTA (N)
19 At N.Y. Giants (N)
24 AT Dallas (N)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

		1977 Scores
Sept.	3 AT Buffalo	—
	10 SEATTLE	30-20
	17 AT Cincinnati	10-17
	24 CLEVELAND	35-31
Oct.	1 AT N.Y. Jets	23-20
	8 ATLANTA	—
	15 AT Cleveland	28-14
	23 HOUSTON (N)	27-10
	29 KANSAS CITY	—
Nov.	5 NEW ORLEANS	—
	12 At Los Angeles 5 p.m.	—
	19 CINCINNATI 4 p.m.	20-14
	27 AT San Francisco 6 p.m.	27-0
Dec.	3 AT Houston	10-27
	9 BALTIMORE	21-13
	16 AT Denver	7-21

That's why Ron Johnson of Eastern Michigan was drafted in the first round. Larry Anderson of Louisiana Tech came three picks later.

Strong safety Mike Wagner is trying to come back from a serious neck injury. The free safety job changed hands last year, with Donnie Shell beating out Glen Edwards. The top backup there, Tony Dungy, also played some emergency quarterback in his rookie year. He was a college quarterback at Minnesota.

Place kicker Roy Gerela had a painful year, bothered by a groin pull. The punter, Bobby Walden, retired. His replacement will be either Rick Engles or Craig Colquitt of Tennessee, a top draft choice.

#### STEELERS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
45	Allen, Jim	CB-S	6-2	194	25	5	UCLA
76	Banaszak, John	DE	6-3	244	27	4	East. Mich.
65	Beasley, Tom	DT	6-5	253	23	1	Va. Tech
83	Bell, Theo	WR	5-11½	180	24	2	Arizona
20	Bleier, Rocky	RB	5-11	210	31	10	Notre Dame
47	Blount, Mel	CB	6-3	205	29	10	Southern
12	Bradshaw, Terry	QB	6-3	215	29	9	La. Tech
79	Brown, Larry	OT	6-4	245	28	8	Kansas
56	Cole, Robin	LB	6-2	220	22	2	New Mexico
77	Courson, Steve	G	6-1	260	22	1	So. Carolina
60	Cousino, Brad	LB	6-0	216	24	4	Miami (O)
89	Cunningham, B.	TE	6-5	247	23	3	Clemson
57	Davis, Sam	G	6-1	255	33	12	Allen
35	Deloplane, Jack	RB	5-10	205	23	3	Salem
21	Dungy, Tony	S	6-0	188	22	2	Minnesota
67	Dunn, Gary	DT	6-3	247	24	2	Miami (Fla.)
27	Edwards, Glen	S	6-0	185	30	8	Fla. A & M
17	Engles, Rick	P	5-11	180	23	3	Tulsa
64	Furness, S.	DT-DE	6-4	255	27	7	Rhode Island
36	Gaines, Wentford	S	6-0	185	24	1	Cincinnati
10	Gerela, Roy	K	5-10	185	29	10	New Mex. St.
16	Graff, Neil	QB	6-3	200	27	5	Wisconsin
75	Greene, Joe	DT	6-4	260	31	10	No. Tex. St.
68	Greenwood, L. C.	DE	6-6½	250	31	10	Ark. AM&N
84	Grossman, Randy	TE	6-1	215	25	5	Temple
59	Ham, Jack	LB	6-1	225	29	8	Penn St.
32	Harris, Franco	RB	6-2	225	27	7	Penn St.
46	Harrison, Reggie	RB	5-11	220	27	5	Cincinnati
	Hicks, John	G	6-4	245	24	3	Ohio St.
55	Kolb, Jon	OT	6-2	262	30	10	Okla. St.
15	Kruczek, Mike	QB	6-1	205	24	3	Boston Coll.
54	LaCrosse, Dave	LB	6-3	210	22	2	Wake Forest
58	Lambert, Jack	LB	6-4	220	25	5	Kent St.
43	Lewis, Frank	WR	6-1	196	30	8	Grambling
28	Maxson, Alvin	RB	6-0	205	26	5	SMU
72	Mullins, Gerry	G	6-3	244	28	8	So. Calif.
66	Petersen, Ted	C-OT	6-5	244	22	2	East. Ill.
74	Pinney, Ray	OT-C	6-4	240	23	3	Washington
	Pureifory, Dave	DT	6-1	255	28	7	E. Mich.
31	Shell, Donnie	S	5-11	190	25	5	S.C. St.
86	Smith, Jim	WR	6-2	205	22	2	Michigan
37	Smith, Laverne	RB	5-10	193	23	2	Kansas
82	Stallworth, John	WR	6-2	183	25	5	Ala. A & M
18	Stoudt, Cliff	QB	6-4	218	22	2	Youngstown
88	Swann, Lynn	WR	6-0	180	25	5	So. Calif.
24	Thomas, J. T.	CB	6-2	196	26	6	Florida St.
38	Thornton, S.	RB	5-11	230	23	2	NW La.
51	Toews, Loren	LB	6-3	222	26	6	California
23	Wagner, Mike	S	6-1½	200	29	8	West. Ill.
52	Webster, Mike	C	6-1½	250	25	5	Wisconsin
78	White, Dwight	DE	6-4	255	28	8	E. Texas St.
53	Winston, Dennis	LB	6-0	228	22	2	Arkansas

#### DRAFTED

Round	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	
1	Johnson, Ron	CB	5-10	200	22	East. Mich.
2	Fry, Willie	DE	6-3	240	23	Notre Dame
3	Colquitt, Craig	P	6-1	182	24	Tennessee
4	Anderson, Larry	CB	5-11	171	21	La. Tech
6	Reutenshan, R.	WR-CB	5-10	182	22	Pittsburgh
7	Dufresne, Mark	TE	6-3	230	22	Nebraska
8	Moser, Rick	RB	6-0	210	21	Rhode Island
	Keys, Andre	WR	6-6	223	23	Calif. Poly
9	Reynolds, Lance	OT	6-2	272	24	Brig. Young
10	Becker, Doug	LB	6-0	220	22	Notre Dame
	Jurich, Tom	PK	5-10	185	21	No. Arizona
11	Terry, Nat	CB	5-11	167	22	Florida St.
	Brzoza, Tom	C	6-2	250	21	Pittsburgh
12	Carr, Fred	LB	6-0	211	22	Maryland

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# HOUSTON OILERS

**O. A. "BUM" PHILLIPS, Coach.**  
*Assistants: Ed Biles, Andy Bourgeois, King Hill, Ken Shipp, Joe Bugel, Wade Phillips, J. Paul Young, Bob Gambold.*

## PREDICTION 3rd

**T**hey say you could feel Don Klosterman's face turn ashen over the telephone. Klosterman is the general manager of the Los Angeles Rams. He had just learned that Earl Campbell would play his professional football in Houston, not LA.

The Rams wanted Campbell badly.

So did a lot of other NFL teams. But Houston offered the best deal, at least in the eyes of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who held title to the first pick in the college football draft.

Campbell isn't just another good back coming out of college. In the consensus thinking of pro scouts, he's the best back to come out of college since O. J. Simpson finished up at USC in 1968.

The comparison to Simpson is probably an erroneous one. Scouts compare Campbell to Jim Brown more than to O. J. Earl is a 220-pounder, more a fullback

type than a halfback. Houston can line him up in either spot. He'll do fine.

It's the most upbeat news for Houston football in years.

There have been times when the franchise has looked like a bad joke. But now it appears owner Bud Adams is serious about giving the city a top club. Bud has the financial wherewithal to spend what is necessary to produce excellence, but for a long time he's gone conservative.

Yet he didn't flinch when his football folks told him what Campbell might cost. That's good news for Houston.

Campbell, in the eyes of many NFL experts, can be better than Tony Dorsett or Ricky Bell; better than Chuck Muncie or any other top back who came out of college in recent years—including Walter Payton.

Happily for him the Oilers seem to be developing a viable offense at the same time Campbell is coming into pro football.

Last year the Oilers drafted offensive linemen, 1-2.

The second-round pick, George Reihner, made the all-rookie team. The first-rounder, Morris Towns, was a bit of a disappointment as a rookie tackle and never did start. But Coach Bum Phillips announced he would switch him to guard this year and aim him at the position formally held by 35-year old Elbert Drungo.

They might sacrifice a little speed with the 275-pound Towns at guard, but Bum plans to blow some holes open for Earl.

Another upbeat note for Campbell is that last year quarterback Dan Pastorini experienced a renaissance season. Not since he was a wonder rookie has Pastorini gotten the fans so excited. At 29, Pastorini should be heading into his richest years.

Last season, Pastorini threw for 1987 yards and 13 touchdowns, while completing 53 percent of his passes.

He was helped by the rebuild-

**ROB CARPENTER**, 6-1, 214-pound second-year pro, powered way for 652 yards in rookie campaign for Houston Oilers, averaging 4.5 yards per try.



**EARL CAMPBELL**, Heisman Trophy winner, fortifies Houston Oilers attack.





KENNY BURROUGH, Oilers' wide receiver who scored eight TDs in 1977, takes handoff from QB DAN PASTORINI.



TIM WILSON, 6-3, 220-pounder, is a promising Oiler running back who gained 343 yards in his rookie season.

ing of the Oiler running game, which, later in the season, began to feature rookie fullback Rob Carpenter.

Now, with Campbell lined up alongside Carpenter, the ground attack should allow Pastorini to operate with even more versatility. Carpenter ran for 652 yards with a per-carry average of 4.5 yards in his freshman year. The incumbent halfback, Ronnie Coleman, ran for 660 yards and averaged 3.6 a carry.

The year before, the Oilers finished dead last among AFC running teams. Last year they advanced to the middle of the pack, with a 25 increase in production.

If Coleman will accept a new role as the third running back, in which he might be used in combination with both Campbell and Carpenter, he could be even more effective than he was as a starter.

The runners started keeping defenses honest for Pastorini. The sacks allowed by the Oilers shrunk by 16 last year, from 39 in 1976 to 23.

With Campbell in the backfield behind Pastorini, the defense will have to be even more wary.

The Oilers had another tough

rookie fullback, Tim Wilson, who gained 343 yards on 99 carries until he was injured. They also acquired another hard knocker, Mike Voight, from Cincinnati. Veteran Fred Willis is expendable.

Pastorini has one of the NFL's premier deep threats at whom to throw, wide receiver Ken Burrough. Everyone knows that Burrough is going long, but not many defenses can do much about it.

Last year Burrough's 43 catches averaged 19 yards. He scored 8 touchdowns on his way to another pro Bowl appearance. Since there were no other Oiler receivers near his class, his statistics were all the more remarkable in that he has no one to remove the pressure from him.

Eddie Foster, a little rookie, started opposite him last year, catching 15 passes for a 13.8-yard average. But on third down, he was replaced by Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, the fabulous kick returner. "Shoes" averaged 20.6 on his 20 receptions and scored 3 touchdowns. Foster didn't score.

Last year Mike Barber shared the tight end position with Jim

Giles. But Giles went to Tampa Bay in the Campbell deal. That leaves the job to Barber. Mike has the speed and receiving ability. He also has the size, 6-3 and 235 pounds, to block. The question is, will he?

Behind the wide receivers are 34-year-old Gary Garrison, a 13-year veteran, and untested Warren Anderson.

Offensive tackle Greg Sampson had a sound year in '77. Carl Mauck is a steady, 10-year center. If Towns plays up to Reiher's standards at guard, the Oilers can get by with journeyman Kevin Hunt at the other tackle.

There are four well-experienced linemen in reserve: Drungo, guard Ed Fisher and tackles Conway Hayman and Bobby Simon. David Carter and Ted Hand battle to see which backs up Mauck.

Speaking of reserves, the Oilers could use another seasoned quarterback. With John Hadl retired, Tom Duniven is the only man behind Pastorini and he didn't throw a pass as a rookie.

The second draft pick was quarterback Gifford Nielsen of Brigham Young, who was consid-



ered the top college player at the position in 1977, until he suffered a knee injury.

The draft also brought the Southwest Conference's top receiver, Mike Renfro of Texas Christian and a couple of tight ends who will compete to back up Barber, Conrad Rucker of Southern U. and Steve Young of Wake Forest.

Defensively, the stood pat. The only defender they drafted was Pittsburgh back J.C. Wilson.

Their strength is in the line-backing.

In Robert Brazile, they have a 6-4, 238-pounder who can run down speedy wide receivers. Brazile may be the finest linebacker in football. As usual, he made the Pro Bowl in '77, his third pro season.

On the other side, 245-pound Ted Washington is a top blitzer. Inside linebacker Gregg Bingham led the Oilers in tackles and his partner, Steve Kiner, hasn't missed a down since he came to the Oilers.

Behind them are Ted Thompson and Art Stringer, plus Harvey Hull, who missed his rookie year due to injury.

The 30 man line is anchored by 31-year-old nose guard Curley Culp and 32-year-old end Elvin Bethea, who suffered a broken arm in '77. The other end is free agent James Young, a pleasant surprise last year. He led the team in sacks, with 8.

Steve Baumgartner, Andy Dorris and Ernest Knox are seasoned reserves at end. Ken Kennard backs up Culp. Jimmy Dean is another rookie who sat out '77.

The secondary is a muddle.

At 34, Zeke Moore is getting a little old to play corner back. The other corner, Willie Alexander, has downs as well as ups. Greg Stemrick, a good cover man, could break in here. So could Rich Sowell, who played for the New York Jets.

Bill Currier made the all-rookie team at strong safety. Mike Reinfeldt led the team in interceptions with five from his free safety position. Someone will have to make room for C.L. Whittington, a hard hitter who comes back off the injury list.



ROBERT BRAZILE, Houston Oilers linebacker, made five sacks last year.

Mike Weger may be too old, 32, to make a comeback, but Al Johnson has experience and Kurt Knoff was one of the best college safeties until he suffered an injury during his senior year at Kansas.

Toni Fritsch kicked 12 of 16 field goals until he got injured last year. The Oilers traded with Kansas City for veteran punter Jerrell Wilson, who will challenge young Cliff Parsley.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Fritsch, 55 points on 19 XP, 12 field goals	15th
<b>RUSHING</b> —Coleman, 185 carries for 660 yds., 3.6 Avg., 5 TDs	10th
<b>PASSING</b> —Pastorini, 169 of 319 attempts for 1987 yds., 13 TDs	8th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Burrough, 43 receptions for 816 yds., 19.0 Avg.	8th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Reinfeldt, 5 for 78 yds., 15.6 Avg.	11th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Parsley, 77 punts, 39.4 Avg., longest 55 yds.	7th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Johnson, 35 for 539 yds., 15.4 Avg., 2 TDs	1st
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —B. Johnson, 25 for 640 yds., 25.6 Avg., 1 TD	3rd

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 5 DENVER (N)	
14 PHILADELPHIA (N)	
19 AT Dallas (N)	
26 AT New Orleans (N)	

1978 SCHEDULE	1977 Scores
Sept. 3 AT Atlanta	—
10 AT Kansas City	34-20
17 SAN FRANCISCO	—
24 LOS ANGELES	—
Oct. 1 AT Cleveland	19-15
8 AT Oakland	29-34
15 BUFFALO	—
23 AT Pittsburgh (N)	10-27
29 AT Cincinnati	10-13
Nov. 5 CLEVELAND	23-24
12 AT New England	—
20 MIAMI (N)	7-27
26 CINCINNATI	21-16
Dec. 3 PITTSBURGH	27-10
10 AT New Orleans	—
17 SAN DIEGO	—

#### OILERS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
83	Anderson, W.	WR	6-2	195	22	8	Alcorn
86	Barber, Mike	TE	6-3	235	24	2	W. Va. St.
63	Baumgartner, S.	DE	6-7	275	26	2	La. Tech
65	Bethea, Elvin	DE	6-2	255	31	5	Purdue
54	Bingham, Gregg	LB	6-1	230	26	11	N.C. A&T
52	Brazile, Robert	LB	6-4	238	24	6	Purdue
19	Alexander, W.	CB	6-3	195	36	4	Jackson St.
00	Burrough, Ken	WR	6-3	210	29	9	Texas So.
26	Carpenter, Rob	RB	6-1	214	22	2	Miami (O)
58	Carter, David	C	6-2	225	24	2	West. Ky.
47	Coleman, R.	RB	5-11	198	26	5	Ala. A&M
78	Culp, Curley	G	6-1	265	31	11	Ariz. St.
20	Currier, Bill	DB	6-0	190	22	2	So. Carolina
	Davis, Anthony	RB	5-10	190	25	2	So. Calif.
67	Dean, Jimmy	DE	6-4	252	22	1	Texas A&M
23	Dempsey, Tom	K	6-1	260	30	9	Palomar
69	Dorris, Andy	DE	6-4	240	26	6	N. Mex. St.
75	Drungo, Elbert	G	6-5	265	34	10	Tenn. St.
11	Duniven, Tom	QB	6-3	210	23	2	Texas Tech
60	Fisher, Ed	G-C	6-3	250	28	5	Arizona St.
89	Foster, Eddie	WR	5-10	185	23	2	Houston
16	Fritsch, Toni	K	5-7	195	32	7	None
82	Garrison, Gary	WR	6-1	194	33	13	S. Diego St.
21	Hadi, John	QB	6-1	215	37	17	Kansas
66	Hand, Ted	C	6-2	250	26	1	East. Mich.
70	Hayman, Conway	T	6-3	260	28	5	Delaware
40	Housman, John	RB	6-3	208	23	1	Houston
48	Hull, Harvey	LB	6-2	230	22	1	Miss. St.
72	Hunt, Keven	T	6-5	260	29	8	Doane
15	Johnson, Al	DB	6-0	200	27	7	Cincinnati
84	Johnson, Billy	WR	5-9	170	25	5	Widener
71	Kennard, Ken	G	6-2	245	23	2	Angelo St.
79	Kirk, Ernest	DE	6-2	265	25	2	How. Payne
57	Kiner, Steve	LB	6-1	225	30	8	Tennessee
25	Knoff, Kurt	DB	6-2	188	23	3	Kansas
64	Knox, Ernest	DE	6-2	245	25	2	SMU
55	Mauck, Carl	C	6-4	250	30	10	S. Ill.
22	Moore, Zeke	CB	6-3	195	34	12	Lincoln
18	Parsley, Cliff	P	6-1	211	23	2	Okl. State
7	Pastorini, Dan	QB	6-3	205	28	8	Santa Clara
64	Reihner, George	G	6-4	263	22	2	Penn. St.
37	Reinfeldt, Mike	DB	6-2	195	24	3	Wis. (Mkw.)
73	Sampson, Greg	T	6-6	270	27	7	Stanford
74	Simon, Bobby	T-G	6-3	252	25	3	Crambling
29	Sowells, Rich	DB	6-0	185	29	8	Alcorn St.
27	Stemrick, Greg	CB	5-11	185	26	4	Colo. St.
53	Stringer, Art	LB	6-1	223	23	2	Ball St.
51	Thompson, Ted	LB	6-1	220	24	4	SMU
76	Towns, Morris	T	6-4	275	23	1	Missouri
31	Voight, Mike	RB	6-0	214	23	2	No. Carolina
28	Weger, Mike	DB	6-2	200	32	6	Miss. Valley
59	Washington, Ted	LB	6-1	245	29	11	Bowl. Green
	Wilson, Jerrel	P	6-2	225	37	16	So. Miss.
45	Wilson, Tim	RB	6-3	220	23	8	Boston Col.
24	Woodford, Gary	CB	6-0	178	23	1	Florida St.
77	Young, James	DE	6-2	260	27	5	Pr. View
44	Willis, Gred	RB	6-0	205	30	2	Maryland
38	Whittington, C.L.	DB	6-1	200	25	2	Texas So.

#### DRAFTTEES

Round	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	Cambell, Earl	RB	5-11	224	22	Texas
3	Nielsen, Gifford	QB	6-4	205	22	Brig. Young
4	Renfro, Mike	WR	5-11	184	22	TCU
6	Rucker, Conrad	TE	6-3	260	21	Southern U.
8	Wilson, James	DB	5-11	170	22	Pittsburgh
9	Mol, Jim	DE	6-6	245	22	Morningside
10	Young, Stephen	TE	6-4	223	21	Wake Forest
11	Thicklen, Willie	WR	6-2	195	22	Alabama St.
12	Schuhmacher, J.	OG	6-3	275	22	So. Calif.

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# CLEVELAND BROWNS

**SAM RUTIGLIANO, Coach.**  
*Assistants: Rod Humenuik, Jim Shofner, Buck Buchanan, Jim Garrett, Rich Kotite, Chuck Weber, John Petercuskie, Dick McPherson.*

## PREDICTION 4th

All you can say about the Cleveland Browns is that the standards of owner Art Modell are high.

The Browns were a 9-6 team in 1976. Not a playoff team, but a 9-6 team.

Last year, they opened the season with a stunning upset, 13-3, over Cincinnati. The next week, they staggered favored New England, 30-27, in overtime.

Halfway through the season, the Browns were in first place in the highly-competitive AFC-Central.

Then, in early November, the Browns' starting quarterback, Brian Sipe, was injured and sidelined for the rest of the season. Cleveland lost its last four games. Before the final game was played, Forrest Gregg was relieved of his head coaching job.

There were some people who thought Cleveland's 9-6 record of 1976 was an accident. Modell, obviously, was one of them. He never was sold on Gregg as the coach.

Into this very hot seat moves Sam Rutigliano, little known by the general public but highly regarded by many NFL people on the inside. He was a receivers coach on Hank Stram's New Orleans staff when Modell hired him.

Rutigliano has coached both offense and defense in the pros. He is respected as a technician. But that will be the lesser of his assets with the Browns.

What Sam has most of is personality, charisma, diplomacy and a rapport with players. His supporters think he may be able to do in Cleveland what his fellow Italian, Tommy Lasorda, did with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Gregg made some basic person-to-person mistakes in Cleveland.

When things went bad, he was

short fused. He came down too hard on his players. That can be a bad thing when your players don't have a great deal of talent in the first place. The Browns probably have less than any of their AFC-Central opponents—Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and even Houston.

Sipe is typical of the Cleveland talent.

He doesn't have a major league arm. He is too small to play quarterback in the NFL. His feet don't get him out of enough trouble. He's too slow.

But he's won a lot of games since he was installed as the starter. He is gritty, smart and resourceful. For the time being, that's going to have to be enough for Sam Rutigliano.

Don't expect Sam to blow his stack or accuse his players of quitting when things go badly, as Gregg did. He's more likely to blow smoke in their ears. He knows he can't afford to alienate what little talent he has at his disposal.

And don't expect Rutigliano to be distant with the owner, either. That killed Gregg's chances of survival in Cleveland.

Tactically, Rutigliano's first move will be to make better use of Gregg Pruitt. He is one of the best runners in the NFL, but he doesn't get the ball enough, especially for a team with a marginal passing game.

Runners like Franco Harris, Lawrence McCutcheon and Lydell Mitchell carried the ball 55-60 times more than Pruitt did last year. He averaged a half yard better than they did.

Mitchell, Sam Cunningham of New England, Clark Gaines of the New York Jets and Ricky Young of San Diego are thrown to far more often than Greg, yet he averages four yards or more per reception than any of them.

"We're going to make more frequent use of Greg this year,"



BRIAN SIPE, Browns QB, ranked ninth in AFC passing last season.

promises the new coach.

Last year Pruitt ran for 1086 yards, a 4.6-yard average. He caught 37 passes for a 12.7-yard average.

Other than wide receiver Reggie Rucker (36 receptions for a 15.7-yard average) the Browns don't have much else in the line of offense.

Cleo Miller is an underrated, small fullback. He gained 756 yards and averaged 4.6 yards a carry last year. But he benefits in the opposition over-defending Pruitt.

The other backs are journeyman. Mike Bruitt, still a disappointment, ran for 205 yards, Larry Poole 118. Brian Duncan is used mostly as a blocker and pass receiver.

The draft brought an outright gift, Larry Collins of Texas A&I, who was available on the third round. It was amazing, considering Collins' reputation, his speed, size and record of running for 1000 or more yards in each of his four varsity seasons. Only Tony Dorsett ever did that before.

The receiving setup, other than Rucker, probably will depend upon what Rutigliano thinks of young Dave Logan in training camp. Logan is a spectacular athlete. He was drafted by the professionals in three major sports—football, basketball and baseball. But at Colorado, and with the Browns, he has been hexed by injuries.

Logan played almost as much as Paul Warfield, now retired, did last year. If Dave impresses Rutigliano, he'll probably stay at wide receiver and Ozzie Newsome will be groomed for tight end.

Newsome is the Alabama star who was one of Cleveland's two first-round draft choices.

He can play wide receiver, but with a little more heft he also can cut it at tight end, something in the manner of Kansas City's Walter White. Gary Parris started at tight end last year and caught five touchdown passes, but essentially he is a backup player. Oscar Roan, normally the tight end starter, has a chronic wrist problem.

Also on the roster are Lawrence Williams and Ricky Feacher, both listed as kick returners as well as wide receivers. Keith Wright of Memphis State, another wide receiver, was on the draft list.

The offensive line is a foreign legion bunch, for the most part.

Tom DeLeone was found wanting by Cincinnati, but he's the Browns' starting center. The guards are Robert Jackson and Henry Sheppard, not household names. Barry Darrow, another non-entity, starts at one tackle.

The only offensive lineman of reputation is tackle Doug Dieken.

Yet the Browns finished eighth in the NFL in rushing, tenth in passing and allowed only 24 quarterback sacks. Only the Chicago Bears and Miami had better averages per-rushing play.

The offensive line backups include guard Al Dennis, tackle Bob Lingenfelter and Gerry Sullivan, who plays center and tackle.

When Sipe was injured last year, David Mays, whose chief experience was in the WFL, became the quarterback. The Browns don't look upon him as a long-range answer, however. They have young Terry Luck and ex-Bill Gary Marangi on their veteran roster.

The long-range answer may be Mark Miller, a bright young rookie who was drafted out of Bowling Green. He was considered one of the year's major sleepers.

Also selected in the draft was North Carolina State's Johnny Evans. His immediate function will be to punt for the Browns. He was one of college football's best for the last few years. But Evans also is a quarterback of merit.

The Browns spent a second-round choice on Evans. They did the same with Tom Skladany of Ohio State the year before, but Skladany never did sign with them and was traded to Detroit just before this last draft.

In Skladany's absence, Greg Coleman did the punting. He

started off with a 47.7-yard day on six punts in the opener, then tapered off to a season average of 39.2.

Don Cockroft had a 17-for-23 field goal season, which included a 12-for-14 performance in the important area within the 39-yard line.

More important, he won two games with clutch field goals, beating New England in overtime and Houston as regulation time ran out.

Defensively, the Browns were one of the more pliable teams in the NFL, especially against a running attack up the middle.

That's why the Browns used their first draft choice to select a middle linebacker, Clay Matthews of Southern California. Cleveland also used its first draft choice last year to take a middle linebacker, Bob Jackson of Texas A&M, but he never got to opening day. He won the job almost immediately in training camp, then suffered a serious knee injury.

The knee hasn't healed enough to encourage the Browns. Thus they tried again with Matthews.

Cleveland has two experienced middle backers, Dick Ambrose and Bob Babich, but neither performed well and were offered in

GREGG PRUITT, Cleveland Browns' top rusher who went for 1086 yards in 1977, can count on seeing the ball more this season under next regime.







DAVE LOGAN, promising wide receiver; placekicker DON COCKROFT; solid offensive tackle DOUG DIEKEN and TOM DeLEONE, the holdover center, left to right, are expected to play key roles for the Cleveland Browns.

trades during the winter. If Matthews doesn't walk into a starting job it will be surprising.

The situation is brighter on the outside. Charlie Hall and Gerald Irons are suitable outside linebackers. With John Garlington retired, the only experienced subs are Dave Graf and Mark Johnson. Johnson's working time was spent mainly on special teams.

Jerry Sherk, normally a pro Bowl tackle, missed half the season due to injury. If he is well again, it will help Matthews' development. The other tackle in front of Clay will be Carl Edwards, who had a strong season last year. But Edwards is 32.

The Browns finished last season with Joe Jones and Mike St. Clair starting at the ends. The man with the most talent, Mack Mitchell, improved some, but he still hasn't played up to his vast potential. Maybe Rutigliano will get more out of him.

The only experienced tackle sub is Mickey Sims, who started some games as a rookie when Sherk was hurt. The draft brought Mississippi State's Larry Gillard and Tennessee's Jee Turnbull.

The secondary is stronger at safety than it is at corner back.

That's where Tony Peters operates on the strong side and Thom Darden, a top leader, is the weak-side safety. Rolly Woolsey, the ex Cowboy who averaged 9.1 yards on punt returns, is the backup.

The surprising part about the corner backs is that Clarence Scott, once an all-pro, was beaten out. The incumbents are ex patriot Ron Bolton and Oliver Davis, a rookie last year. Ken Ellis, the former packer, is also available.

Backup safety Bill Craven was on the injured list all season. The Browns didn't draft a defensive back.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Cockroft, 81 points on 30 XP, 17 field goals			4th
<b>RUSHING</b> —G. Pruitt, 236 carries for 1086 yds., 4.6 Avg., 3 TDs			4th
<b>PASSING</b> —Sipe, 112 of 195 attempts for 1233 yds., 9 TDs			9th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Miller, (rb), 41 for 291 yds., 7.1 Avg., 1 TD			15th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Darden, 6 for 107 yds., 17.8 Avg., 1 TD			7th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Coleman, 61 punts, 39.2 Avg., longest 58 yds.			8th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Woolsey, 32 for 290 yds., 9.1 Avg.			11th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —25 for 518 yds., 20.7 Avg.			13th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug.	7 N.Y. GIANTS (N)
	12 AT Buffalo (N)
	21 DETROIT (N)
	27 AT New England (N)

1978 SCHEDULE		1977 Scores
Sept.	3 SAN FRANCISCO	—
	10 CINCINNATI	7-10
	17 AT Atlanta	—
	24 AT Pittsburgh	31-35
Oct.	1 HOUSTON	15-19
	8 AT New Orleans	—
	15 PITTSBURGH	14-28
	22 AT Kansas City	44-7
	29 BUFFALO	27-16
Nov.	5 AT Houston	24-23
	12 DENVER	—
	19 AT Baltimore	—
	26 LOS ANGELES	0-9
Dec.	3 AT Seattle	19-20
	10 N.Y. JETS	—
	17 AT Cincinnati	13-3

#### BROWNS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs.	College
52	Ambros, Dick	LB	6-0	235	24	4	Virginia
60	Babich, Bob	LB	6-2	231	30	9	Miami (O)
28	Bolton, Ron	CB	6-2	170	27	7	Norfolk St.
12	Cockroft, Don	K	6-1	195	32	11	Adams St.
9	Coleman, Greg	P	6-0	178	23	2	Florida A&M
23	Craven, Bill	S	5-10½	185	26	2	Harvard
27	Darden, Thom	S	6-2	193	27	6	Michigan
63	Darrow, Barry	T	6-7	260	27	5	Montana
21	Davis, Oliver	CB	6-1½	200	23	2	Tenn. St.
54	DeLeone, Tom	C	6-2	248	27	7	Ohio St.
62	Dennis, Al	G	6-4	250	26	4	Grambling
73	Dieken, Doug	T	6-5	252	28	8	Illinois
35	Duncan, Brian	RB	6-0	201	25	3	SMU
66	Edwards, Earl	DT	6-7	256	31	10	Wichita
48	Ellis, Ken	CB-KR	5-11	190	30	9	Southern U.
83	Feacher, R.	WR-KR	5-10	174	23	3	Miss. Valley
55	Graf, Dave	LB	6-2½	215	24	4	Penn. St.
59	Hall, Charlie	LB	6-3¼	235	29	8	Houston
86	Irons, Gerald	LB	6-2	230	30	9	Mo.-E. Shore
68	Jackson, Robert	G	6-5	250	24	4	Duke
58	Johnson, Mark	LB	6-2	236	24	4	Missouri
64	Jones, Joe	DE	6-6	250	29	8	Tenn. St.
47	Jones, Ricky	S	6-1	195	22	2	Tuskegee
75	Lingenfelter, Bob	T	6-7	277	23	2	Nebraska
85	Logan, Dave	WR	6-4	226	23	3	Colorado
7	Luck, Terry	QB	6-3	205	25	2	Nebraska
8	Marangi, Gary	QB	6-2	203	25	4	Boston Col.
10	Mays, Dave	QB	6-1	204	28	3	Tex. So'ern
30	Miller, Cleo	RB	5-11	202	25	5	Ark. AMN
70	Mitchell, Mack	DE	6-7½	245	25	4	Houston
84	Parris, Gary	TE	6-2	226	27	6	Florida St.
20	Peters, Tony	S	6-1½	192	24	4	Oklahoma
38	Poole, Larry	RB	6-½	195	25	4	Kent St.
34	Pruitt, Greg	RB	5-10	190	26	6	Oklahoma
43	Pruitt, Mike	RB	6-0	214	23	3	Purdue
81	Roan, Oscar	TE	6-6	214	26	4	SMU
33	Rucker, Reggie	WR	6-2	190	30	9	Boston U.
22	Scott, Clarence	CB	6-0	180	28	8	Kansas St.
65	Sheppard, Henry	G	6-6	246	25	3	SMU
72	Sherk, Jerry	DT	6-4½	250	29	9	Oklahoma St.
78	Sims, Mickey	DT	6-5	282	22	2	S.C. State
17	Sipe, Brian	QB	6-1	190	28	5	S. Diego St.
74	St. Clair, M.	DE-DT	6-5	245	24	3	Grambling
79	Sullivan, Gerry	C-T	6-4	250	25	5	Illinois
80	Williams, L.	WR-KR	5-10	173	24	3	Texas Tech
25	Woolsey, R.	S-KR	6-1	182	24	4	Boise St.

#### DRAFTEES

Round	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	Mathews, Clay	LB	6-2	230	21		So. Calif.
2	Newsome, Ozzie	WR	6-2	230	21		Alabama
3	Evans, Johnny	P-QB	6-1	200	21		N.C. State
3	Collins, Larry	RB	5-11	196	22		Texas A&I
4	Miller, Mark	QB	6-2	185	21		Bowl. Green
4	Pallara, Pete	G	6-2	246	21		Chattanooga
5	Wright, Keith	WR	5-10	175	21		Memphis St.
6	Pitts, Al	C	6-3	235	22		Mich. St.
8	Turnbow, Jesse	DT	6-7	272	21		Tennessee
9	Kramer, John	T	6-5	251	22		Baylor
10	Watson, Brent	T	6-4	249	22		Tennessee
11	Gillard, Larry	DT	6-4	268	24		Miss. St.
12	Biedermann, Leo	T	6-7	250	22		California

#### FREE AGENTS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
99	Bivins, Aaron	LB	6-1	220	23	Toledo
91	Breckner, D.	DE	6-4	247	24	Miami (Fla.)
92	Budrow, Mike	TE	6-5	240	25	No' eastern
26	Coleman, Arnold	DB	6-0	180	22	Hofstra
29	Dobrzyniecki, J.	DB	6-2	185	23	Akron
95	Fenton, Dennis	DT	6-4	258	23	Mass.
98	Green, Arthur	WR	5-11	176	21	Waynesburg
96	Hodge, Ronald	WR	6-3	190	22	Widener
56	Jackson, Bob	LB	6-1	230	24	Tex. A&M
49	London, Tom	DB	6-1	203	23	Tenn. St.
49	Meadors, J.	LB	6-2	215	22	N.C. State
37	Saleet, Dan	RB	6-1	225	22	Arkansas
88	Stirman, Gary	TE	6-3	232	23	Bowl. Green
94	Storer, Greg	TE	6-5	223	21	Ab. Chris.
39	Thomas, Vince	RB	6-1	219	23	Ohio St.
51	Tierney, Leo	C	6-3	248	23	Ga. Tech

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Western  
Division

# OAKLAND RAIDERS

**JOHN MADDEN, Coach.**

*Assistants: Ollie Spencer, Tom Dahms, Tom Flores, Lew Erber, Myrel Moore, Jim Sweeney, Ray Willsey.*

## PREDICTION 1st

**T**he question they used to ask about the Raiders is "will they ever win the big one?"

They don't ask that question any more. Oakland won the big one, the Super Bowl, in January, 1977.

The question they ask about the Raiders now is "Did they keep up with the times, or are they being passed by?"

For the first time since 1971 and only the second time since 1963, the Raiders didn't win the Western Division championship. Denver won it rather easily. Not only did the Broncos finish ahead of them but San Diego is breathing heavily behind them.

In the good old days of just a year ago, the Raiders went 6-0 in their division. Last year they

came within a whisker of playing just .500 football in the division.

They split with Denver, split with San Diego and barely won the series with KC, winning the second game by a point on the final day of the season. Denver then beat them in the playoffs.

The Raiders aren't replenishing themselves like they used to—possibly a fatal flaw in such hot competition.

They didn't have a No. 1 draft choice last year, having surrendered it to Green Bay in compensation for Ted Hendricks. They didn't have one this year, either. They made a horrible deal with the Packers, giving up a first round pick along with a fourth-round choice in return for defensive tackle Mike McCoy, who was nothing more than a spear carrier for Oakland last year.

It was an exorbitant price to pay for waiver-wire quality.

Now there is the specter of O. J. Simpson.

The Raiders attempted to trade for the Juice, but what they offered wasn't as enticing to Buffalo as the deal tendered by the 49ers. If Simpson is too far past his prime or he doesn't heal from his knee injury or the 49ers don't have enough talent to complement him, then Davis won't have to worry about backlash.

But if Simpson has one of his spectaculars and it is produced right across the Bay from the raiders, then The Genius will be second guessed all season long.

As it stands, the best way for Oakland to stave off San Diego and overtake Denver would be for Ken Stabler to have the sort of season he had in 1976 or even '75. The Snake did not have one of his vintage years in '77.

His statistics were good enough: 2176 yards, a completion percentage of 57.0, 20 touchdowns. Even his 20 interceptions can be explained away by pointing out that 7 of them came in a 30-7 rout by Denver.

But Stabler wasn't the electrifying, game-winning quarterback he was in the past. He may have to revert to that form if the Raiders are to come back.

Not that the Raiders are about to become a welfare case. The points they scored and the points they gave up were almost identical to what the figures were in the Super Bowl season. The won-lost record was a respectable 11-3 after a phenomenal 13-1.

But the competition is so hot now, that anything short of excellence may not be enough.

The Raiders concentrate more on the running game than they used to. Mark van Eeghen became the third 1000-yard rusher in the Raiders' history last year

RAY GUY, who can boom 'em, averaged 43.3 yards punting last season.





KEN STABLER, Oakland's QB, passed for 2176 yds. last year with a 57 percentage completion, 20 TDs, 20 interceptions.



MARK VAN EEGHEN rushed for 1273 yds., tops in the AFC to become the 3d 1000-yd. ground-gainer in Oakland's history.

(the others were Marv Hubbard in 1972 and Clem Daniels in 1963). Van Eeghen is a tough, straightahead runner, which means Oakland was more inclined toward the conservative. His 1273 yards was the best in the AFC.

Clarence Davis, van Eeghen's running mate, range up 787 yards and rugged Pete Banaszak 214 as Oakland led the AFC in rushing.

They ran the ball 124 more times than they did in the Super Bowl season. They passed it 57 fewer times.

Maybe it was a hangover from the Super Bowl itself. Remember how the Raiders destroyed Minnesota by running over Art Shell and Gene Upshaw, their left tackle and left guard? That's a memory hard to erase, especially for the Vikings.

That veteran line is still intact, with guard George Buehler and tackle John Vella on the right side, flanking center Dave Dalby.

One thing the Raiders may do a lot more of this season is throw to their tight end Dave Casper. After Casper caught a dozen touchdown passes in the 1976 seasons, the entire NFL tried to

put a half nelson on him last year. He caught 48 passes, only four fewer than the year before, but his TDs fell to 6 and his per-catch was cut by a full yard.

Cliff Branch caught 33 passes for a 16-yard average and a half dozen touchdowns. Fred Biletnikoff is still hanging on at 35. He caught 33 passes for a 13.5-yard average and six scores.

The Raiders are well fortified at most offensive positions.

Henry Lawrence would be a starting tackle or guard on most lines. Mickey Marvin did well as a rookie guard and also doubled as a blocking tight end. Steve Sylvester has three year's experience as a relief center.

Ex all-pro Ted Kwalick and special team's ace Warren Bankston are other tight ends. Mike Siani and Morris Bradshaw are seasoned reserves at wide receiver.

Carl Garrett, Hubie Ginn and Terry Robiskie are the sub running backs. It's a little thin there.

Place kicker Errol Mann led the league with 99 points. He kicked 20 of 28 field goals, but the Raiders might have made a mistake when they cut rookie

Rolf Benirschke last year. He hooked on with San Diego and finished the season with 12 consecutive field goals.

Ray Guy is the best punter in the western Hemisphere. He led the NFL with a 43.3-yard average last year and also does the kicking off.

The Raiders are famous for salvaging players who couldn't cut it elsewhere and then rehabilitating them. This year's project is Bobby Douglass, the big left-handed quarterback who frustrated the Chicago Bears then couldn't cut it in San Diego and New Orleans.

Stabler's other backups are Mike Rae, also a place kicker, and another lefty, David Humm.

Defensively, the Raiders were an uneven unit last year.

They did some things well, including their anti-run devices. But they were signed by the long pass. They ranked 22d in the NFL against the pass. They had some trouble getting to the opposing quarterbacks.

The Raiders are strictly a 3-man defensive line now.

They station huge Dave Rowe, still an energetic player at 33, on





PAT TOOMAY (67), Oakland, goes after his man, Rams' PAT HADEN.

the center's nose. At 6-7 and 270, he's a load. The ends are 6-8, 275-pound John Matuszak and 6-4, 270-pound Otis Sistrunk.

Those three play the run well, but don't get much penetration when it comes time to rush the quarterback. That's what led the Raiders to deal for Pat Toomay, the well-traveled end who played at Dallas, Buffalo and then Tampa Bay.

Toomay became the "Mad Sacker" for Oakland. He made a half dozen key plays in the Raiders, early-season, vital victory at Pittsburgh.

Behind them, there is little. Charles Phillyaw, another huge end, was hurt in the third game of the season and never played again. The Raiders made another deal, this time a bad one, for McCoy.

The salvation may be in the linebacking.

The two keys are Phil Villapiano and Ted Hendricks. Villapiano tore up a knee in the second game of the season. He has to come back, with the quickness which was so much of his skill, if the Raiders are to improve defensively.

Hendricks probably will have to be used in a pass-rush role to put some heat on the quarterbacks. He used to play that line-backer-defensive end duel role well, but he's 30 now and all those championship games may have worn away his competitive edge.

The other linebackers, the in-

side men, Willie Hall and Monte Johnson, are both effective.

The most experienced backup, Floyd Rice, didn't play well when Villapiano went down, so coach John Madden will take a closer look at kids like Jeff Barnes, Rod Martin, Randy McClanahan and a free agent signed off the Buffalo roster, Bob Nelson.

What happened to the Raider corner backs last year was that they were barbecued by the long ball.

It was understandable in Willie Brown's case. He is 37 years old. But Skip Thomas, the other corner, was burned more often.

The opportunity is there for two kids, Neal Colzie and Lester Hayes.

George Atkinson is still a first-rate strong safety. His value was underlined by his loss (to knee surgery) late in the season. Free safety Jack Tatum is still a class player. Eventually, someone is going to have to make room for Charles Phillips, the good young safety who missed the last half of the season due to injury.

Oakland had a strange, faceless draft.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Mann, 99 points on 39 XP, 20 field goals	1st
<b>RUSHING</b> —Van Eeghen, 324 carries for 1273 yds., 3.9 Avg., 7 TDs	1st
<b>PASSING</b> —Stabler, 169 of 294 attempts for 2176 yds., 20 TDs	4th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Casper, 48 receptions for 584 yds., 12.2 Avg., 6 TDs	8th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Tatum, 6 for 146 yds., 24.3 Avg.	6th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Guy, 59 punts, 43.3 Avg., longest 74 yds.	1st
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Colzie, 32 for 334 yds., 10.4 Avg.	10th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Garrett, 21 for 420 yds., 20.0 Avg.	15th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 5 AT Chicago (4 p.m.)	
12 NEW ENGLAND (6 p.m.)	
20 AT San Francisco	
26 LOS ANGELES (6 p.m.)	

1978 SCHEDULE	1977 Scores
Sept. 3 AT Denver	24-14
10 AT San Diego	7-12
17 AT Green Bay	—
24 NEW ENGLAND (4 p.m.)	—
Oct. 1 AT Chicago	—
8 HOUSTON	34-29
15 KANSAS CITY	21-20
22 AT Seattle	44-7
29 SAN DIEGO	24-0
Nov. 5 AT Kansas City	37-28
13 AT Cincinnati (N)	—
19 DETROIT	—
26 SEATTLE	44-7
Dec. 3 DENVER 6 p.m.	7-30
10 AT Miami 4 p.m.	—
17 MINNESOTA	35-13

The Raiders had no first-round pick and then took defensive end Dave Browning of Washington in the second round.

They took Derrick Jensen, a power runner from Texas-Arlington, on Round 3 and followed those picks by selecting Kansas offensive tackle Lindsay Mason, Ball State defensive back Maurice Harvey and Missouri wide receiver Joe Stewart.

One of the most interesting picks was Kentucky's Derrick Ramsey, a college quarterback who will be converted to tight end.

But rookies seldom play for Oakland. Henry Lawrence was selected on the first round five years ago and still isn't a starter.

#### RAIDERS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs.	College
43	Atkinson, George	S	6-0	185	30	11	Morris Brown
40	Banaszak, Pete	RB	6-0	210	33	13	Miami (Fla.)
46	Bankston, W.	TE	6-4	235	30	10	Tulane
56	Barnes, Jeff	LB	6-2	215	22	2	California
25	Bilentnikoff, F.	WR	6-1	190	34	14	Florida St.
81	Bradshaw, M.	WR	6-1	195	25	5	Ohio St.
21	Branch, Cliff	WR	5-11	170	29	7	Colorado
24	Brown, Willie	CB	6-1	210	37	16	Grambling
64	Buehler, George	T	6-2	270	30	10	Stanford
87	Casper, Dave	TE	6-4	230	25	5	Notre Dame
20	Colzie, Neal	CB	6-2	205	24	4	Ohio St.
50	Dalby, Dave	C	6-3	250	27	7	UCLA
28	Davis, Clarence	RB	5-10	195	28	8	So. Calif.
31	Garrett, Carl	RB	5-10	205	30	10	N.M. H'lands
29	Ginn, Hubie	RB	5-9	185	30	9	Fla. A&M
8	Guy, Ray	K	6-3	195	28	6	So. Miss.
39	Half, Willie	LB	6-2	225	28	6	So. Calif.
37	Hayes, Lester	CB	6-0	208	22	2	Tex. A&M
83	Hendricks, Ted	LB	6-7	220	30	10	Miami (Fla.)
11	Humm, David	QB	6-2	185	25	4	Nebraska
42	Jackson, Steve	S	6-1	190	22	2	LSU
33	Jennings, Rick	WR	5-9	180	24	3	Maryland
58	Johnson, Monte	LB	6-5	240	26	6	Nebraska
34	Kunz, Terry	RB	6-1	215	25	2	Colorado
89	Kwalick, Ted	TE	6-4	225	30	10	Penn St.
70	Lawrence, Henry	T	6-4	270	26	5	Fla. A&M
68	Little, Everett	T	6-4	280	23	2	Houston
14	Mann, Errol	K	6-0	205	36	11	No. Dakota
53	Martin, Rod	LB	6-2	205	23	2	So. Calif.
65	Marvin, Mickey	G	6-4	270	22	2	Tennessee
72	Matuszak, John	DE	6-8	275	27	6	Tampa
57	McClanahan, R.	LB	6-5	225	23	2	S.W. La.
76	McCoy, Mike	DT	6-5	275	29	9	Notre Dame
47	Phillips, Charles	S	6-2	215	25	4	So. Calif.
77	Phillyaw, Charles	DE	6-9	275	23	3	Tex. So'ern
15	Rae, Mike	QB	6-0	190	26	3	So. Calif.
52	Rice, Floyd	LB	6-3	225	28	8	Alcorn A&M
35	Robiskie, Terry	RB	6-1	210	23	2	LSU
74	Rowe, Dave	DT	6-7	270	32	12	Penn St.
78	Shell, Art	T	6-5	275	31	11	Mo.-E. Shore
49	Siani, Mike	WR	6-2	195	27	7	Villanova
60	Sistrunk, Otis	DE	6-4	270	30	7	None
12	Stabler, Ken	QB	6-3	215	32	9	Alabama
66	Sylvester, Steve	C	6-4	260	24	4	Notre Dame
32	Tatum, Jack	S	5-11	205	29	7	Ohio St.
26	Thomas, Skip	CB	6-1	205	27	7	So. Calif.
67	Toomay, Pat	DE	6-6	245	29	9	Vanderbilt
63	Upshaw, Gene	G	6-5	255	32	12	Texas A&I
30	van Eeghen, M.	RB	6-2	225	25	5	Colgate
75	Vella, John	T	6-4	260	27	7	So. Calif.
41	Villapiano, Phil	LB	6-2	225	28	8	Bowl, Green
22	Warren, Jimmy	CB	5-11	175	38	13	Illinois

#### DRAFTIES

DRAFTS						
Round		Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
2	Browning, Dave	DE	6-4	235	21	Washington
3	Jensen, Derrick	RB	6-1	225	22	Arlington
	Mason, Lindsey	T	6-5	250	23	Kansas
4	Harvey, Maurice	DB	5-10	190	22	Ball St.
	Stewart, Joe	WR	5-11	180	22	Missouri
5	Ramsey, Derrick	TE	6-4	220	21	Kentucky
6	Davis, Tom	C	6-2	240	22	Nebraska
	Levenseller, M.	WR	6-1	180	22	Wash. St.
7	Whittington, A.	RB	5-10	180	22	SMU
	Inman, Earl	LB	6-1	215	24	B-Cookman
8	Nichols, Mark	DE	6-3	225	21	Colorado St.
11	Jones, Dean	DB	5-8	175	21	Fresno St.
	Glazebrook, Bob	DB	6-1	200	22	Fresno St.
12	Conron, Joe	WR	6-1	170	21	Pacific

INTRODUCING

## THE ULTIMATE DO-IT-YOURSELF FOOTBALL SYSTEM

Well fans, another football season is on its way. How are you going to play it this year? Are you going to subscribe to that newsletter again, the one that didn't arrive on time a couple of weekends last year; the one that is printed on Tuesdays and didn't even know that the ace running back on which their No. 1 Best Bet depended had been hit by a runaway beer truck on Thursday and was out for the season!

Or are you going to subscribe to that late telephone service again? You know, the one with the busy lines and the great winning percentages that somehow never seem to materialize for you but still cost you \$500 for the season, excluding playoffs.

Perhaps you'll choose that all-around 4-star in-depth football publication with the six different analysts. They give out almost every mathematically possible combination of picks and do they blow their horn when they get a couple right!

Whichever one you used last year, they're all back again this year. And so are their prices! You can spend \$35, \$50, \$175, \$450, \$750 and so on. In fact, in my final year of idiocy I shelled out \$850 for the full season plus playoffs. I started the season full of confidence that by finally spending the big bucks I was getting the best service. I made my two largest ever (up to then) plays on their first two Best Bet selections. They both went down and it was a long, long season. Talk about playing catch up football.

Nevertheless the vast majority of these self-claimed super selection services are back again this year and the choice is yours. Let me offer a suggestion. Consider my system. You don't phone me, I don't phone you; I don't send you a weekly newsletter and you don't send me a weekly newsletter. In fact once you purchase my system you don't need me anymore, you don't need anyone any more, not this year or next year or ever again. Because you will have the **Ultimate Do-It-Yourself Football System**. And from now on you do-it-yourself. You make your selections yourself, you become your own selection service. And your winning percentage will be tremendous. Over the last 6 years the **Ultimate Do-It-Yourself Football System** has had an average winning percentage of 74.7% (vs the point spread of course, what else? After all, that's the name of this game.)

I developed the **Ultimate Do-It-Yourself Football System** because I wanted to see if I could find some way to win at this game. Obviously, there was no future in depending on someone else to do the selecting for me, especially when their selecting wasn't that consistent and in some cases was downright awful. I wasn't sure what I'd find when I went at it but I had already developed a winning horse-racing system, and I simply turned my attentions and energy onto the football scene. Wherever there is a chance to make money I give it a good shot. But let me tell you, I surprised even myself with what I came up with. The consistency is super and the winning percentages are just phenomenal.

Let me tell you, developing something like this is an awful lot of hard work but, as with my horse racing system, it has paid off. It was such a gratifying feeling for me when I realized I had done it — I had developed a true, solid system that consistently makes money. Not only that, but a feeling of such peacefulness and calm comes over me as I approach each new football season with the utmost confidence. Not like the old days when it was a nerve-racking experience sifting through the selection services and putting up cold hard cash and most of the time watching it go down the drain. I tell you, I am so glad those days are behind me, never to be experienced by me again.

But back to the system. I am offering it for sale because that is my philosophy. I like to capitalize on

my hard work and achievements as long as doing so doesn't interfere with my own successful use of what I develop. There is no danger of that here so I offer to you, for your own personal use, my **Ultimate Do-It-Yourself Football System**.

When you purchase it you will receive a breakdown of 5 different angles to be used in selecting your plays from the coming weekend's slate of games. The angles range from a very specialized spot play angle (that has suffered only one defeat in 6 years, that coming in 1976) to other angles that give you a good deal of action, yet maintain an incredible winning average. The winning percentages are as follows:

Angle No: 1.... 83.3%....over 6 years  
Angle No: 2.... 77.8%....over 6 years  
Angle No: 3.... 72.2%....over 6 years  
Angle No: 4.... 71.2%....over 6 years  
Angle No: 5.... 68.9%....over 6 years

Remember you need at least 53% to technically be a winner at football yet the **Ultimate Do-It-Yourself Football System** gives you an average winning percentage of 74.7% over the past 6 years (1972-1977), with the actual breakdown as shown above. In other words it makes you a big winner!

The price is a very reasonable \$150.00 complete. I set this low price to encourage people to buy my system, verify it, test it, use it to win and then tell their friends about it. As the recognition comes and the demand grows my price will be increased but that will come later and won't affect you, if you order now.

Remember the \$150.00 price is not a yearly fee or subscription rate, it is the one and only payment you ever make to me. And once you make it you don't need me or anyone else anymore to help you win. You are your own super selector!

To further sweeten the deal I am offering a money back guarantee. If the **Ultimate Do-It-Yourself Football System** is not everything I say it is just send it back and I will completely refund your money. I stand behind it 100%.

So, it's up to you. This is something brand new, totally different and incredibly successful. It is well worth the \$150.00 investment and it has a money back guarantee to back it up. The only question left is—do you really want to be a winner this year? If so, then do it yourself! That's what I do and I'm doing great!

Michael Stone

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(Shipment is by First Class Mail of course.)

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ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



# DENVER BRONCOS

**ROBERT MILLER, Coach.**

*Assistants: Richie McCabe, Stan Jones, Bob Zeman, Fran Polsfoot, Babe Parilli, Paul Roach, Ken Gray, Joe Colier, Marv Braden.*

## PREDICTION 2nd

**T**he air had turned crisp and the leaves orange and yellow when Broncomania became epidemic last year. It was Oct. 16 and the Denver team had won its first four games of the season.

But other Denver teams had started well early in the season, too. The 1962 team went 6-1 for the first half of the season, then went 1-6 for the second half.

The truth was that no Denver team, in the 18 seasons of its existence, ever won a title of any sort.

Besides, Game 5 was against the champions of the World, the Oakland Raiders, who had won 16 games in a row, one short of the modern, NFL record. To make matters worse, it was to be played in the Oakland-Alameda Stadium, where the Raiders hardly ever lose.

The Broncos won only twice there in the previous 10 years.

But 1977 was different, in almost every way, for Denver. The Broncos bombed the Raiders, 30-7, that day. They made it a humiliation by using a trick play

which had Jim Turner, the chubby, 36-year-old place kicker who still wears high-top shoes, catching a touchdown pass.

Oakland got some revenge two weeks later when it won in Denver, but the Broncos didn't lose again until the last game of the season when they fell to Dallas, their eventual conqueror in the Super Bowl.

It was truly the year of the Horse.

The smart money said the Broncos would fold in the playoffs, but instead they decked two former Super Bowl winners, Pittsburgh and Oakland.

The problem in 1978 is that Denver's success last year was based on unity, enthusiasm and pennant fever.

The unity was created by, the enthusiasm fueled by and the fever kept to a high pitch by the team's dynamic rookie coach, Red Miller.

Denver is not a team with well-balanced talent. It wins with Deeeeeeense. Spell that with a capitol DEEEEEEEEEEEE. Offensively there are many question marks, which will have to be re-

moved by Miller if the team is to even approach its '77 performance.

Miller was coach of the year. He may have to exceed his own first-year performance to get the Broncos into the playoffs again.

Most of the questions about '78 center around Craig Morton, the born-again quarterback.

What Morton did for Denver last season, after the team acquired him from the New York Giants in what was thought to be a minor trade, cannot be measured in statistics. Eight passers in the American Conference alone threw for more yardage. Six AFC quarterbacks threw for more touchdowns.

RED MILLER, in his first year as Denver Broncos coach, worked wonders in '77.

LYLE ALZADO, hurt in 1976, did standout job at defensive tackle.



BERNARD JACKSON, free safety, was a welcome addition to Denver Broncos.





RILEY ODOMS, tight end, paced the Denver Broncos in receiving last year.

But Morton was the steady, guiding hand on an offense which could have self-destructed at any minute, taking with it the Broncos' excellent defense.

Most of what Morton accomplished was almost negative: He didn't make the big mistake; he had the second-lowest interception rate in the AFC; he controlled the tempo so that turnovers were kept at a minimum.

By doing that, he assured that most of the Denver games were kept in the hands of the Broncos' defense.

And what a defense!

The Broncos allowed only 148 points, 49 fewer than the next-best team, Miami. They absolutely strangled the run, allowing only five rushing touchdowns for the season, plus the lowest per-game yardage production by foes, to lead the entire NFL.

Because Denver did so well against the run, its anti-pass statistics are misleading. The enemy threw against the Broncos more than against any other AFC

team. The passes gained a lot of yardage.

But in the vital categories Denver stood out there, too.

The Broncos allowed only 10 touchdown passes, one more than the AFC leader, and their average gain per-completion was second only to Miami.

Denver plays the 3-4 defense as well, if not better, than any team in the league. The team has some of the top defensive coaches in the NFL, like defensive co-ordinator Joe Collier and line coach Stan Jones. Now they added another good one, secondary coach Richie McCabe, formerly of Buffalo.

Jones' linemen include one of the most emotional leaders in the league, all-pro end Lyle Alzado, who came off a 1976 injury to fire his teammates with enthusiasm.

Nose guard Rubin Carter, powerful and quick, is one of the principal reasons the Broncos are so successful at tying up a running game. The other end, Barney Chavous, is steady.

The linebackers are the heart of the Denver defense.

The turning point of the season may have been a 73-yard touchdown return by outside linebacker Tommy Jackson of Bert Jones' pass in the Broncos' 27-13 victory over Baltimore. Jackson does other things besides intercept, such as blitz with lightning quickness and penetrate against the running game.

Inside back Randy Gradishar, like Jackson, was all-pro last year. Gradishar hits with even more authority than he did when he was an All-America at Ohio State.

The other Bronco defenders say that outside backer Bob Svenson is the most underrated linebacker in the league. He is even quicker than Jackson. As the strong-side backer, he handles some of the best tight ends in football. The fourth man is Joe Rizzo, another under-sized but quick hard hitter.

As a unit, the Denver linebackers are the quickest in the NFL.

Corner Louie Wright was voted the best defensive back in the league last year. Opposing



BILL THOMPSON, all-pro safety, had five interceptions for 122 yards in '77.

quarterbacks seldom test his territory. He intercepted only three passes last year, but averaged 42.7 yards on each return. He, too, was all-pro.

The other corner, Steve Foley, is an ex college quarterback just two years removed from the now-defunct World Football League. At first, enemy strategists thought he might be the Broncos' achilles heel, but he played superbly in the big games.

Another "minor" deal made by General Manager Fred Gehrke in the off-season brought a free safety, Bernard Jackson, who cemented the defense. He plays alongside another all-pro, strong safety Bill Thompson, the Denver interception leader with 5.

There is suitable depth in the line with quick John Grant, Brisson Manor and Paul Smith, a onetime star whose knee injuries reduced him to relief roles.

Godwin Turk, the ex New York Jet, is a reliable sub for both inside backers, but untested Rob Nairne and Larry Evans, the



other reserves, could be challenged hard by a rookie.

The same goes for the secondary, where Randy Polt, Randy Rich and Larry Riley are the backups.

The Broncos' principal problems are on offense.

Denver finished tied for 18th among NFL passing teams. It finished 11th in ground offense. Those statistics underline what an outstanding defense the team had.

The potential for a more potent passing game is there. It was just that Miller declined to have Morton risk putting the ball in the air more often than he did. The coach thought it more important to emphasize the unexpected in the passing game and he was right.

Morton did throw for 1929 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Look for him to use tight end Riley Odoms more often in 1977. Odoms was the team's leading receiver with 37 catches for and 11.6-yard per-catch average, with 3 touchdowns. But Riley has the kind of skills Dave Casper of Oakland and Russ Francis of New England have. He can catch the deep ball.

Veteran Haven Moses caught only 27 balls, but he averaged 20 yards on his catches and scored 4 touchdowns. Jack Dolbin, the other starter, averaged 17 yards on his 26 catches and scored 3 times.

For a change of pace, Miller can use fast and elusive Rick Upchurch, who averaged 20.4 yards on his dozen catches.

Behind the other starters are special teams ace John Schultz and blocking tight end Ron Egloff.

The problems are much thornier when Denver runs the ball. The top ball carrier last year was Otis Armstrong, with 489 yards in 130 rushes.

That put him in 21st place among AFC rushers. He was bothered by an ankle injury most of the season, but he was supposed to have been healed in the Super Bowl. The Cowboys held him to 27 yards in 7 carries.

The truth is that Armstrong hasn't been the same since he suffered a knee injury a couple of

years ago. He is notoriously up and down. He had a 1000-yard season in '76, but the only big day he had all last year was a 96-yard game against the pliable Buffalo Bills.

Rob Lytle understudied Armstrong last year as a rookie and finished with a better per-carry average than Otis, 3.9 to 3.8. He carried just 26 fewer times.

Jon Keyworth is the fullback. He's mainly a blocker. His understudy, Lonnie Perrin, carried 27 times more than Keyworth and led the team in average with 4.1. Jim Jensen is another in the Keyworth-Perrin mold.

There could be at least one alteration in the offensive line. Andy Maurer was a beefed-up guard starting at left tackle last year. If last season's No. 1 draftee, Steve Schindler, is ready, he could replace Paul Howard at right guard with Howard moving to right tackle.

Tom Glassic is a solid youngster at left guard and Claudie Minor does a workmanlike job at right tackle. Mike Montler was a sound addition from Buffalo at center.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Turner, 76 points on 31 XP, 13 field goals, 1 TD (rec.)	7th
<b>RUSHING</b> —Armstrong, 130 carries for 489 yds., 3.8 Avg., 4 TDs	22nd
<b>PASSING</b> —Morton, 131 of 254 attempts for 1929 yds., 14 TDs	2nd
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Odoms, 37 receptions for 429 yds., 11.6 Avg., 3 TDs	19th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Thompson, 5 for 122 yds., 24.4 Avg.	10th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Dilts, 90 punts, 39.2 Avg., longest 63 yds.	7th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Upchurch, 51 for 653 yds., 12.8 Avg., 1 TD	5th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Upchurch, 20 for 456 yds., 22.8 Avg.	8th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 5 AT Houston (N)	
12 DALLAS 7 p.m.	
19 AT Buffalo (N)	
25 SAN FRANCISCO (N)	

1978 SCHEDULE		1977 Scores	
Sept. 3	OAKLAND	14-24	
11	AT Minnesota (N)	—	
17	SAN DIEGO	17-9	
24	AT Kansas City	14-7	
Oct. 1	SEATTLE	—	
8	AT San Diego	17-14	
16	CHICAGO (N)	—	
22	AT Baltimore 4 p.m.	27-13	
29	AT Seattle	24-13	
Nov. 5	N.Y. JETS	—	
12	AT Cleveland	—	
19	GREEN BAY	—	
23	AT Detroit 12 Noon	—	
Dec. 3	AT Oakland 6 p.m.	30-7	
20	KANSAS CITY	23-7	
16	PITTSBURGH	21-7	

Another possible candidate for Maurer's job is ex Packer Bill Bain. Other tackles are Glenn Hyde and Henry Allison. Ex Cardinal Greg Kindel is the extra guard with 36-year-old Bobby Maples the spare center.

Jim Turner is still a steady place kicker and Bucky Dilts averaged 39.2 yards as the rookie punter. Upchurch is one of the NFL's top punt returners. He averaged 12.8 yards last year.

#### BRONCO'S VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
73	Allison, Hank	OT	6-3	255	30	S. Diego St.
77	Alzado, Lyle	DE	6-3	250	28	Yankton
24	Armstrong, Otis	RB	5-10	196	27	Purdue
75	Bain, Bill	T	6-4	270	25	So. Calif.
54	Baska, Rich	LB	6-3	225	25	3 UCLA
68	Carter, Rubin	DE	6-0	256	25	4 Miami
79	Chavous, Barney	DE	6-3	252	26	6 So. Car. St.
10	Dilts, Bucky	P	5-9	183	24	2 Georgia
82	Dolbin, Jack	WR	5-10	180	29	4 Wake Forest
85	Egloff, Ron	TE	6-5	238	22	2 Wisconsin
56	Evans, Larry	LB	6-2	216	24	3 Miss. Col.
43	Foley, Steve	S	5-11	185	24	3 Tulane
62	Glassic, Tom	LB	6-2	216	23	3 Ohio St.
53	Gradishar, Randy	LB	6-3	233	25	5 Virginia
63	Grant, John	DT	6-3	246	27	6 So. Calif.
60	Howard, Paul	G	6-3	260	27	5 Brigg. Young
65	Hyde, Glenn	OT	6-3	250	26	5 Pittsburgh
29	Jackson, Bernard	DT	6-0	178	27	7 Wash. St.
57	Jackson, Tom	LB	5-11	220	26	6 Louisville
30	Jensen, Jim	RB	6-3	240	24	3 Iowa
32	Keyworth, Jon	RB	6-3	230	27	5 Colorado
41	Lytle, Rob	RB	6-1	195	23	2 Michigan
66	Manor, Brison	DE	6-4	248	25	2 Arkansas
50	Maples, Bob	C	6-3	250	35	14 Baylor
74	Maurer, Andy	OT	6-3	265	29	9 Oregon
71	Minor, Claudie	OR	6-4	280	26	5 S. Diego St.
52	Montler, Mike	C	6-4	250	33	10 Colorado
7	Morton, Craig	QB	6-4	210	34	14 California
25	Moses, Haven	WR	6-2	200	31	11 S. Diego St.
58	Nairne, Bob	LB	6-4	220	23	2 Oregon St.
88	Odoms, Riley	TE	6-4	230	27	7 Houston
23	Pane, Chris	S	5-11	180	24	2 Chico St.
12	Penrose, Craig	QB	6-3	205	24	3 S. Diego St.
35	Perrin, Lonnie	RB	6-1	222	25	3 Illinois
21	Polt, Randy	S	6-3	190	25	5 Stanford
40	Rich, Randy	DB	5-10	181	24	2 New Mexico
26	Riley, Larry	DB	5-10	195	23	2 Salem
59	Rizzo, Joe	LB	6-1	220	27	5 Mer. Mar. Ac.
67	Schindler, Steve	G	6-3	260	23	2 Boston Col.
86	Schultz, John	WR	5-10	182	24	3 Maryland
70	Smith, Paul	DT	6-3	256	32	11 New Mexico
51	Swenson, Bob	LB	6-3	220	24	4 California
36	Thompson, Bill	S	6-1	200	31	10 Maryland St.
55	Turk, Godwin	LB	6-3	230	27	5 Southern
15	Turner, Jim	K	6-2	205	36	15 Utah St.
80	Upchurch, Rick	WR	5-10	170	25	4 Minnesota
14	Weese, Norris	QB	6-1	195	26	3 Mississippi
20	Wright, Louis	CB	6-2	195	24	4 S. Jose St.

#### DRAFTTEES

Round	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	Latiner, Don	DT	6-3	265	22	Miami (Fla.)
2	Gay, Bill	TE	6-4	224	22	So. Calif.
10	Kinney, Vince	WR	6-2	190	21	Maryland
11	Brumley, Lacy	OT	6-6	262	21	Clemson

#### ROOKIES

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
Baker, Ron	FB-P	6-0	211	24		Monmouth
Behrendsen, R.	OT	6-3	278	22		Las Vegas
Bell, Steven	TE	6-4	225	24		Cincinnati
Benson, Gary	S	6-2	185	21		Quachita
Brown, James	SE	6-1	202	25		San Fran. St.
Canada, Larry	FB	6-2	235	23		Wisconsin
Carruthers, K.	HB	5-10	193	23		Benedictine
Christopher, H.	DB	5-10	190	23		Mor. Brown
Cook, Melvin	LB	6-5	220	21		Oregon
Cook, Richard	OT	6-4	260	22		Northridge
Cooper, Donald	WR	6-0	170	21		Mor. Brown
Enis, Ric	HB	6-0	195	22		Indiana
Huddleston, John	LB	6-3	231	23		Utah
Jackson, Charles	LB	6-3	236	22		Washington
McCord, Travis	WR	6-2	185	23		Drake
Moore, Kenneth	TE	6-3	232	23		N. Illinois
Mortenson, Fred	QB	6-2	195	23		Arizona
O'Brien, Joe	SS	6-0	202	23		Boston Col.
Parker, John	RB	5-11	215	24		Western St.
Peters, Terry	DB	5-11	175	22		Oklahoma
Preston, Dave	HB	5-10	195	22		Bowl. Green
Salley, Ernest	DT	6-2	250	21		Maryland
Senini, S.	WR-TE	6-4	215	22		Reno
Smith, Donald	LB	6-2	225	22		Clemson
Snikeris, Eric	LB	6-0	232	22		Westleyan
Solverson, Peder	OT	6-4	260	25		Drake
Stevenson, David	TE	6-3	235	22		Baylor
White, Richard	WR	6-4	205	22		Michigan

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# SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

**TOMMY PROTHRO, Coach.**

**Assistants: Earnel Durden, Bob McKittrick, Jackie Simpson, Ray Perkins, Jerry Smith, Larrye Weaver.**

## PREDICTION 3rd

**T**HE San Diego Chargers are making progress. It's slow and painful progress, one step forward, one step backward, a step and a half forward.

But it's still progress.

The Chargers finished at the break-even level in 1977, 7 victories, 7 losses. It was their best record since 1969. It was also a more robust record than it seems. A one-point loss to Pittsburgh in the final game cost them a winning season. They also lost to Denver by just 3 and to New England by 4.

What is paying off for the Chargers in the biggest way is the college draft of 1975. In that one, Coach Tommy Prothro obtained three-quarters of his defensive line and half his defensive backfield.

With the Class of '75 as the anchor, the Chargers' young defense set a club record for fewest points allowed, 205. The old record had stood since 1961, when the Chargers were one of the strongest teams in the old American League.

The three third-year linemen, tackles Louie Kelcher and Gary Johnson and end Fred Dean led a pass rush which accounted for 44 sacks, third in the AFC behind New England and Baltimore, and best in the club's history.

The Chargers helped by that kind of pressure, led the AFC in pass defense, allowing only 1725 yards. They were second in overall AFC defense.

"I think we are in the same class as Denver and Oakland," said Prothro at the end of the season. "I'm not saying we're better than they are or even as good. Just that we're in the same class."

Even Al Davis, the Raiders' resident genius, thinks San Diego is improving.

"They are certainly one of the

coming teams," he admits.

Just how rapidly the improvement can be accelerated depends upon how fast Prothro can build an offense to match his defense.

Prothro has a weird situation on his hands. Last year he started James Harris, the ex Los Angeles Ram, at quarterback for half the season. Then Harris got hurt. Into the breach stepped one of the year's surprise heroes, Dan Fouts.

Fouts, warring with Prothro during the last part of the '76 season, held out for two thirds of the NFL season. He isolated himself up in Bend, Ore., until a judge ruled against him in a court action. The legal suit had been brought against San Diego by Fouts and his agent. Howard Slusher.

When Fouts finally reported, in reluctance, to the Chargers, it was as if he never missed a day.

Thrust into the lineup because of Harris' injury, he completed 19 of 26 passes for 199 yards in a 30-28 victory over Seattle. The next week he went 14-for-20 for 237 yards in a 37-14 victory over Cleveland.

It was a one-man indictment of the necessity of training camp.

This season the quarterback job will be a shootout between Fouts and Harris, with Fouts favored because of his amazing comeback.

No matter who does the quarterbacking, he will have some imposing targets.

Charlie Joiner is still the killer deep receiver from his split end berth. He caught 35 passes for a 15.5-yard average and 6 touchdowns last year. His partner this time will be Johnny Rodgers, whose debut was dampened by injuries. Rodgers played enough to catch a dozen passes for 15.6 yards.

Rodgers, the ex Heisman Trophy winner, hasn't scored an NFL touchdown yet, but he's capable of many.

Prothro traded with the Rams for Harris' old safety target, tight end Bob Klein. Klein beat out incumbent Pat Curran and caught 20 passes for a 12.1-yard average.

Other receivers include Dwight McDonald, a onetime starter, and Artie Owens.

Five different backs gained 193 or more yards for the Chargers last year. The starters are Ricky Young, who switched from running back to halfback and led the team with 543 yards on the ground and in pass catching with 48, and Don Woods.

Woods once was the NFL rookie of the year, but then suffered a knee injury. He came back to gain 405 yards last year.

Joe Washington, a dangerous spot player, gained 217 yards, rookie Clarence Williams 215 and Bo Matthews, a onetime starter at fullback, 193.

Lawrence Barnes and Hank Bauer also are on the roster.

Recent drafts also produced three starters in the offensive line. Center Ralph Perretta was a 1975 pick and so was tackle Billy Shields. Guard Don Macek came the next year.

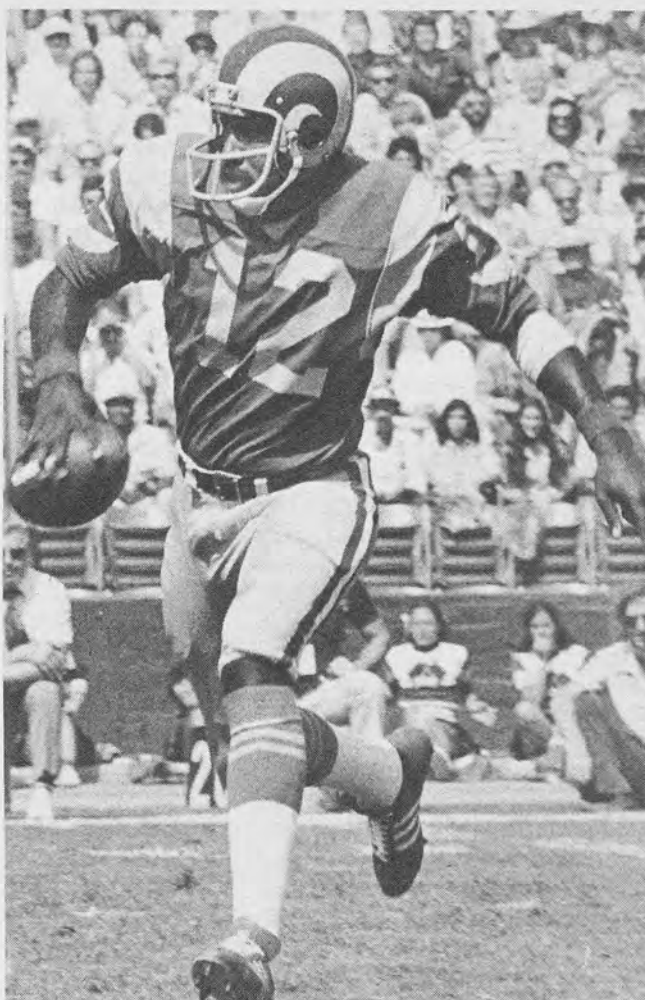
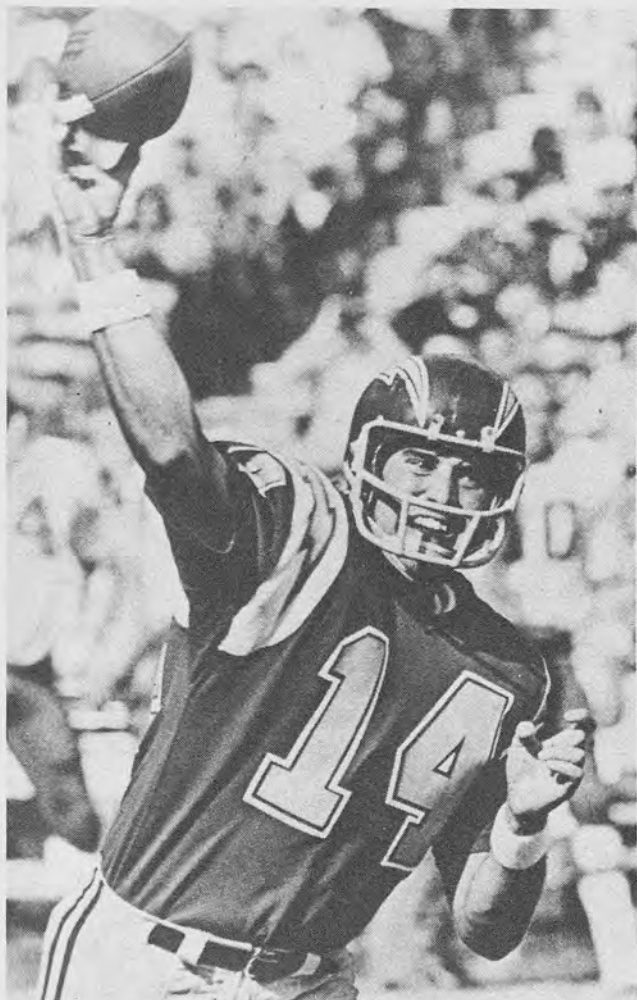
The glue in the line is still veterans Russ Washington, a Pro Bowl tackle once again, and guard Doug Wilkerson.

Bob Rush, last year's No. 1 draft choice, could give Perretta a challenge. Charles Aiu is the backup guard and Booker Brown the third tackle.

An important part of San Diego's offense is place kicker Rolf Benirschke, who was obtained on waivers from Oakland. Benirschke was successful on his last 12 field goal tries in his rookie season and he'll be going after the NFL record of 16 straight this year. He was 17-for-23 overall.

The punter is Jeff West, who averaged 37.6 on 77 kicks.

The Chargers drafted a player they never thought would be available when their turn on the first round came up—wide receiver



DAN FOUTS played like he had never been away in '77. JAMES HARRIS will battle to regain starting QB spot. CHARLIE JOINER, San Diego Charger wide receiver, is about to make TD grab as Cincinnati Bengal KEN RILEY pursues.





John Jefferson of Arizona State.

That pick enabled them to make a trade to fortify the defensive line. With Jefferson on the roster, they could afford to swap backup wide receiver Larry Dorsey for veteran defensive end Wilbur Young of Kansas City. Young can be used to spell Dean, especially against the run where Fred's lack of size is a liability.

Another deal strengthened them at middle linebacker, where they had been deficient a year ago.

Incumbent Tom Graham was sent to Philadelphia for a draft choice. Then San Diego dealt two draft choices to Detroit for Jim Laslavic, a 240-pounder who was the Lions' longtime starter. Laslavic is merely a journeyman, but behind Kelcher and Johnson he should provide improved play against the run.

If not, then young Bob Horn will take a run at the job. He is also challenged by Ray Preston.

The outside linebackers are Don Goode and Woodrow Lowe. Behind them is Rick Middleton.

Mike Williams is solid at one corner back but Jerome Dove could wrest the other side from Hal Stringert, now that the revamped bump-and-run rule has put a premium on coverage.

Clarence Duren is the free safety and Mike Fuller plays the

strong side, with Pete Shaw as the swing man. Fuller provides a bonus. He finished fourth in the AFC in punt returns with a 12.9-yard average.

It was an offensive draft, starting with Jefferson.

He should find immediate work as the backup for both Rodgers and Joiner.

The next three picks were offensive tackle Milton Hardaway of Oklahoma State, running back Ricky Anderson of South Carolina State and guard John Choma of Virginia.

Hardaway is enormous, 6-foot-8 and 305 pounds. The question is can he play? If he can, he'll be the eventual successor to Russ Washington. Choma could be groomed as Wilkerson's heir.

Anderson was one of the draft's top sleepers, a big fast back who catches well and can block. He may insert himself immediately into the crowded battle for a starting job.

Cliff Featherstone, a defensive back from Colorado State, and Gavin Hedrick, a punter from Washington State, could be prominent figures.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Benirschke, 72 points on 21 XP, 17 field goals . . . . . 8th	
<b>RUSHING</b> —Young, 157 carries for 543 yds., 3.5 Avg., 4 TDs . . . . . 18th	
<b>PASSING</b> —Harris, 110 of 211 attempts for 1240 yds., 5 TDs . . . . . 12th	
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Young, (rb), 48 receptions for 423 yds., 8.8 Avg. . . . . 9th	
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Fuller, 5 for 61 yds., 12.2 Avg. . . . . 13th	
<b>PUNTING</b> —West, 72 punts, 37.6 Avg., longest 59 yds. . . . . 17th	
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Fuller, 28 for 360 yds., 12.9 Avg., 1 TD . . . . . 4th	
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Williams, 24 for 481 yds., 20.0 Avg. . . . . 14th	

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 4 AT Seattle (N)	
12 AT Los Angeles (N)	
19 N.Y. JETS (6 p.m.)	
26 AT N.Y. Giants (5 p.m.)	

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

		1977 Scores
Sept. 3	AT Seattle	30-28
10	OAKLAND	12-7
17	AT Denver	9-17
24	GREEN BAY	—
Oct. 1	AT New England	20-24
8	DENVER	14-17
15	MIAMI	14-13
22	AT Detroit	0-20
29	AT Oakland	0-24
Nov. 5	CINCINNATI	24-3
12	KANSAS CITY	16-21
19	AT Minnesota	—
26	AT Kansas City	23-7
Dec. 4	CHICAGO 6 p.m.	—
10	SEATTLE	—
17	AT Houston	—



DOUG WILKERSON, nine-year vet, does solid job at offensive guard.

#### CHARGERS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
64	Alu, Charles	G	6-2	254	23	3	Hawaii
35	Barnes, L.	RB	5-11	220	23	2	Tenn. St.
37	Bauer, Hank	RB	5-10	195	23	2	C. Lutheran
6	Benirschke, Rolf	K	6-0	165	22	2	UC Davis
55	Brown, Booker	T	6-2	257	25	3	So. Calif.
45	Colbert, Danny	CB	5-11	176	27	4	Tulsa
82	Curran, Pat	TE	6-3	238	32	10	Lakeland
71	Dean, Fred	DE	6-3	228	25	4	La. Tech
73	DeJurnett, C.	DT	6-4	270	25	3	S. Jose St.
87	Dorsey, Larry	WR	6-1	195	24	3	Tenn. St.
48	Dove, Jerome	CB	6-0	186	24	2	Colorado St.
21	Duren, Clarence	S	6-1	190	27	6	California
14	Fouts, Dan	QB	6-3	204	26	6	Oregon
42	Fuller, Mike	S	5-9	188	24	4	Auburn
50	Goode, Don	LB	6-2	225	26	5	Kansas
12	Harris, James	QB	6-4	217	30	9	Grambling
55	Horn, Bob	LB	6-3	237	23	3	Oregon St.
11	Jeffrey, Neal	QB	6-0	180	25	3	Baylor
79	Johnson, Gary	DT	6-2	254	25	4	Grambling
18	Joiner, Charlie	WR	5-11	188	30	10	Grambling
68	Jones, Leroy	DE	6-8	265	27	3	Norfolk St.
74	Kelcher, Louis	DT	6-5	282	24	4	SMU
84	Klein, Bob	TE	6-5	245	30	10	So. Calif.
54	Laslavic, Jim	LB	6-2	235	26	6	Penn St.
69	Lee, John	DE	6-2	253	24	3	Nebraska
51	Lowe, Woodrow	LB	6-0	227	23	3	Alabama
62	Macek, Don	G	6-3	253	23	3	Boston Col.
41	Matthews, Bo	RB	6-4	230	26	5	Colorado
89	McDonald, D.	WR	6-2	187	26	4	S. Diego St.
57	Middleton, R.	LB	6-2	228	26	5	Ohio St.
19	Munson, Bill	QB	6-2	205	36	15	Utah St.
10	Olander, Cliff	P-QB	6-5	196	22	2	N.M. St.
85	Owens, Artie	WR	5-10	174	24	3	West Va.
53	Perretta, Ralph	C	6-2	250	24	4	Purdue
52	Preston, Ray	LB	6-0	215	23	3	Syracuse
20	Rodgers, J.	WR-RB	5-10	180	26	2	Nebraska
56	Rush, Bob	C	6-5	258	22	2	Memphis St.
44	Shaw, Peter	S	5-10	184	23	2	No'western
66	Shields, Billy	T	6-7	254	24	4	Ga. Tech
45	Stringer, Hal	CB	5-11	185	25	4	Hawaii
24	Washington, Joe	RB	5-10	182	24	3	Oklahoma
70	Washington, Russ	T	6-7	290	31	11	Missouri
80	West, Jeff	P-TE	6-3	211	24	4	Cincinnati
63	Wilkerson, Doug	G	6-3	257	30	9	N.C. Central
40	Williams, C.	RB	5-9	188	22	2	So. Carolina
20	Williams, Mike	CB	5-10	180	24	4	LSU
33	Woods, Don	RB	6-1	209	26	5	New Mexico
34	Young, Rickey	RB	6-2	198	24	4	Jackson St.
99	Young, Wilbur	DE	6-6	290	28	8	Wm. Penn

#### DRAFTIES

Round	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College	
1	Jefferson, John	WR	6-1	184	21	Arizona St.
2	Hardaway, Milton	T	6-9	324	23	Oklahoma St.
3	Anderson, Rickey	HB	6-0	205	24	S.C. State
5	Choma, John	G	6-5	241	22	Virginia
7	Featherstone, C.	CB	5-11	182	20	Colorado St.
8	Hedrick, Gavin	P	6-3	190	21	Wash. St.
9	Bradley, Henry	DT	6-2	260	24	Alcorn St.
	Whitlatch, Blake	LB	6-1	233	22	LSU
10	Price, Charles	TE	6-3	223	22	Cincinnati
12	Bell, Kevin	WR	5-11	180	22	Lamar Tech



MIKE FULLER paced Chargers in punt returns with 12.9-yard average.

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# SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

**JACK PATERA, Coach.**

*Assistants: Larry Peccatiello, Jim Mora, Jerry Rhome, Andy MacDonald, Howard Mudd, Jack Christiansen.*

## PREDICTION 4th

**T**he Seahawks don't think they deserve to be labeled an expansion team any more.

"We'd rather be known as a young team that's building, rather than an expansion club," says General Manager John Thompson. "It's time we shook off the expansion label."

Why not?

The young Seahawks won more games, 5, than any second-year expansion team in NFL history last year. They were better than their 5-9 record, in fact. For the last ten games of the season they were a .500 team, 5-5.

They even won two games on the road, a 17-0 victory over the Jets in New York and a season-ending, 20-19 victory at Cleveland.

After the last game, Jack Patera had his contract as head coach extended through 1980. It was well deserved. Patera did an excellent job and the Seattle organization is far, far ahead of Tampa Bay, which came into the NFL at the same time.

The Seahawks' scoring inflated by 153 points and their defense allowed 56 fewer points in '77.

Seattle will be in business for a long, long time before they sign a more valuable free agent than Jim Zorn or trade more judiciously than they did when they acquired Steve Largent.

Zorn and Largent are the heart of the Seattle team.

Zorn was on the Los Angeles "hide" squad in 1976, when personnel chief Dick Mansperger, who had been with Dallas when Zorn spent a training camp with the Cowboys, signed him as a free agent.

The former Little All-America quarterback from California Polytechnic was the Seahawks' most valuable player in their first season. Last year he threw 16 touchdown passes. In one game against Buffalo he passed for four



JIM ZORN, the southpaw Seahawk quarterback, missed four games due to injury in 1977 campaign, but passed for 1687 yards, including 16 touchdowns.

STEVE LARGENT, Oiler castoff, has been a top-notch receiver for Seattle Seahawks the past two seasons, grabbing 33 for 643 yards, 10 TDs in '77.



touchdowns and ran for another as Seattle ran up the highest point total in the NFL for 1977, 56 points.

Zorn is the perfect quarterback for an exp. . . Ooops! A young team. He can scramble out of trouble.

He didn't run too much last year, just 25 times. But he averaged 5.6 yards a carry when he did. His maneuverability comes in handiest against the pass rush. He was sacked only 12 times, which is incredible for a building offense.

Largent got a quick peek at the Houston training camp two years ago. The Oilers needed a wide receiver, but even though they drafted him the fourth round, they thought so little of his chances that they shipped him to Seattle for an eighth-round pick.

Largent has 87 receptions in two years. He averaged 19.4 yards on his 33 catches last year and pushed his touchdown production from 4 to 10.

The Seahawks knew what they were doing. Their quarterback and receiver coach is Jerry Rhome, who coached Largent at Tulsa. Rhome realized that Largent knew where the end zone was located. Steve caught 14 passes in each of his last two seasons to lead the nation's colleges.

Seattle used part of the deal for the second pick in last year's draft (otherwise known as Tony Dorsett) to pick up a partner for Largent.

They sent one of the second-round draft choices they received from Dallas for Dorsett back to the Cowboys for wide receiver Duke Ferguson. It was a gamble. Ferguson was coming off the injury list. But he played fairly well, catching 19 passes for a 19.6-yard average and 2 scores in his first season in the NFL.

The tight end is ex-basketball player Ron Howard. Patera might do better with a new man. Howard's pass-catching statistics dropped from 37 to 10 and he's not a thunderous blocker.

The Seahawks have a bright backup for Zorn. When Jim was hurt last October, Steve Myer stepped in and threw four touchdown passes as Seattle defeated



TERRY BEESON, DON DUFEK, and SAMMY GREEN, right to left, make stop.

RON CODER, 6-4, 250, is one of the Seahawks more promising linemen.



Tampa Bay, 30-23, in the Expansion Bowl. Myer completed a club record 8 straight that day. Myer, who didn't get into a game as a rookie the year before, had a completion record 12 points higher than Zorn's 53.8-41.4.

The situation is unsettled in the offensive line.

The Seahawks have some young talent which must play. The quicker they develop more of it, the quicker the running game will take shape.

Tom Lynch broke in as a rookie guard last year. He could have a bright future. The other guard is young Ron Coder. Art Kuehn, who came from Washington in the expansion draft, is not old, but he will be heavily challenged by another younger player for the center job. It's John Yarne, who was a high draft

choice last year. Bob Newton and Gordon Jolley are the reserve guards.

One tackle job belongs to Steve August, the fellow the Seahawks picked on the first round with the Cowboy pick they received for Dorsett. August was injured in a motorcycle accident before the season started and played only six games. He has to come through in order not to embarrass the organization.

Norm Evans, the durable old ex-Dolphin, still contributes at 36, but he has to be replaced soon. Nick Bebout is the other vet on the roster, but the eventual successor probably will be someone like the rookies drafted this season, Louis Bullard of Jackson State or Rich Grimmert of Illinois. Grimmert is a future project. He lettered only his senior



year but has potential.

Once they have a dependable line, the Seahawks could run the ball more successfully.

Seattle used two power backs at the same time last year. Sherman Smith, a 6-4 225-pounder, led the team with 763 yards and a 4.7-yard average. Don Testerman, a journeyman fullback, gained 459 yards and averaged 3.9.

Rookie David Sims, a sturdy, 216-pounder, added 369 more, averaged 3.7. Testerman caught 4 touchdown passes, Smith and Sims three each.

But the man who could change the look of the running game is Al Hunter, who joined Seattle after the season began. Hunter was supposed to be the top man in Notre Dame's backfield last season, then was declared ineligible. The Seahawks acquired him in a special draft.

Hunter may have the outside speed which the attack lacks. If so, look for Smith to be switched to fullback and be teamed with him. Hunter led the Hawks with a 5.6-yard average on 32 carries.

Defensively, the picture is much grimmer. To correct it, the Seahawks made their first three draftees defensive picks. All three could start.

The top pick was Keith Simpson, a rugged corner back from Memphis State. No. 2 was another Keith from Memphis State, Butler, a middle linebacker. No. 3 was safety Bob Jury of Pitt.

The Seahawks ranked next-to-last in total defense, next-to-last in pass defense, and third from the bottom in defense against the rush. They gave up the most points, 387; the most touchdowns, 42; and sacked the quarterback only 18 times.

Seattle has only one quality defensive lineman, Steve Niehaus, and they have trouble keeping him healthy. He missed six games last year.

There is one promising youngster, Dennis Boyd, and a lot of veteran journeyman or marginal players like Ron East, Richard Harris, Alden Roche, Bob Lurtsema and Horace Jones.

Assuming Butler adjusts to outside linebacker, Head Coach Jack Patera will have a most

promising linebacking corps.

Terry Beeson made the all-rookie team last year and Sammy Green has been starting since he was a rookie. Pete Cronan is also a promising kid. Veteran Ken Geddes started last year.

In reserve are veteran Amos Martin and youngsters Charles McShane and Mike Jones. Randy Coffield missed his rookie year with injury. The draft brings another interesting name—George Halas of Miami, Fla.

Dave Brown and Eddie McMillan are the incumbent corner backs, but it seems almost certain that there will be some switching around when Simpson arrives. Brown also has experience at safety.

Don Dufek, a promising youngster, and veteran Steve Preece are the incumbent safeties. Jury and possibly Brown could change that. Cornell Webster and Autry Beamon, who started nine games, also are on the roster. Another drafted rookie is John Harris of Arizona State.

Herman Weaver, the ex Lion,

#### 1977 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Leyboldt, 60 points on 33 XP, 9 field goals	T.13th
Largent, 60 points on 10 touchdown passes	T.13th
<b>RUSHING</b> —Smith, 163 carries for 763 yds., 4.7 Avg., 4 TDs	7th
<b>PASSING</b> —Zorn, 104 of 251 attempts for 1687 yds., 16 TDs	14th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Largent, 33 for 643 yds., 19.4 Avg., 10 TDs	24th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Beamon, 6 for 36 yds., 6.0 Avg.	9th
<b>PUNTING</b> —Weaver, 58 punts, 39.5 Avg., longest 59 yds.	5th
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Packer, 20 for 131 yds., 6.5 Avg.	17th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —Hunter, 36 for 820 yds., 22.8 Avg.	9th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 4	SAN DIEGO (N)
12	AT San Francisco (6 p.m.)
17	LOS ANGELES (N)
24	CHICAGO (N)

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3	SAN DIEGO	28-30
10	AT Pittsburgh	20-30
17	AT N.Y. Jets	17-0
24	DETROIT	—
Oct. 1	AT Denver	—
8	MINNESOTA	—
15	AT Green Bay (Mil.)	—
22	OAKLAND	—
29	DENVER	13-24
Nov. 5	AT Chicago	—
12	BALTIMORE	14-29
19	AT Kansas City	34-31
26	AT Oakland	7-44
Dec. 3	CLEVELAND	20-19
10	AT San Diego	—
17	KANSAS CITY	—

#### 1977 Scores

finished with a 39.5-yard punting average. John Leyboldt, the ex Bill, was successful on half his 18 field-goal tries, but his 5-for-9 performance from within the 39 made him suspect.

#### SEAHAWKS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs.	College
12	Adkins, Sam	QB	6-2	214	22	2	Wichita St.
46	Adzick, George	S	6-3	199	23	1	Minnesota
76	August, Steve	T	6-5	254	23	2	Tulsa
27	Beamon, Autry	S	6-1	190	24	4	E. Tex. St.
63	Bebout, Nick	T	6-5	260	26	6	Wyoming
58	Beeson, Terry	LB	6-3	240	22	2	Kansas
31	Benjamin, Tony	RB	6-3	225	22	2	Duke
68	Boyd, Dennis	DT	6-6	255	22	2	Oregon St.
22	Brown, Dave	CB	6-1	190	25	4	Michigan
60	Coder, Ron	G	6-4	250	23	3	Penn St.
52	Coffield, Randy	LB	6-3	215	24	2	Florida St.
57	Cronan, Peter	LB	6-2	238	23	2	Boston Col.
25	Dufek, Don	S	6-0	195	23	3	Michigan
74	East, Ron	DT	6-4	248	34	11	Montana St.
73	Evans, Norm	T	6-5	250	35	14	TCU
89	Ferguson, Duke	WR	6-1	193	24	2	S. Diego St.
36	Geddes, Ken	LB	6-3	235	30	8	Nebraska
56	Green, Sammy	LB	6-2	230	23	3	Florida
77	Harris, Richard	DE	6-5	258	30	8	Grambling
62	Hodges, Ruben	DE	6-5	260	24	1	Miss. Valley
87	Howard, Ron	TE	6-4	240	27	5	Seattle
24	Hunter, Al	RB	5-11	195	23	2	Notre Dame
64	Jolley, Gordon	T	6-5	245	28	7	Utah
79	Jones, Horace	DE	6-4	260	28	7	Louisville
53	Jones, Mike	LB	6-3	224	23	2	Jackson St.
54	Kuehn, Art	C	6-3	255	25	3	UCLA
80	Largent, Steve	WR	5-11	184	23	3	Tulsa
3	Leyboldt, John	K	6-2	230	31	8	No College
23	Long, Doug	S	5-11	189	22	1	Whitworth
70	Lurtsema, Bob	DT	6-6	250	36	12	West. Mich.
61	Lynch, Tom	G	6-5	260	22	2	Boston Col.
49	Marinero, Ed	RB	6-2	207	27	7	Cornell
50	Martin, Amos	LB	6-3	228	29	6	Louisville
84	McCullum, Sam	WR	6-2	203	25	5	Montana St.
41	McMillan, Eddie	CB	6-0	190	26	6	Florida St.
59	McShane, Chas.	LB	6-3	230	24	2	Lutheran
16	Myer, Steve	QB	6-2	188	23	3	New Mexico
78	Newton, Bob	G	6-5	260	28	8	Nebraska
71	Niehaus, Steve	DE	6-4	255	23	3	Notre Dame
20	Preece, Steve	S	6-1	195	31	10	Oregon St.
83	Raible, Steve	WR	6-2	195	23	3	Ga. Tech
82	Rayhle, Fred	TE	6-5	225	23	1	Chattanooga
55	Reece, Geoff	C	6-4	247	25	3	Wash. St.
75	Roche, Alden	DE	6-4	255	32	9	Southern
66	Sandifer, Bill	DT	6-6	260	26	4	UCLA
81	Sawyer, John	TE	6-2	230	24	4	So.ern Miss.
35	Sims, David	RB	6-3	216	22	2	Ga. Tech
47	Smith, Sherman	RB	6-4	225	23	3	Miami (O.)
42	Testerman, Don	RB	6-2	230	25	3	Clemson
67	Van Valkenberg	T	6-5	240	23	1	Washington
18	Weaver, Herman	P	6-4	210	29	9	Tennessee
38	Webster, Cornell	S	6-0	180	23	2	Tulsa
51	Yarno, John	C	6-5	251	23	2	Idaho
10	Zorn, Jim	QB	6-2	200	24	3	Pomona

#### DRAFTEES

Round	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	Simpson, Keith	DB	6-1	195	21	Memphis St.
2	Butler, Keith	LB	6-4	225	21	Memphis St.
3	Jury, Bob	DB	6-2	200	22	Pittsburgh
5	Bullard, Louis	T	6-6	265	21	Jackson St.
6	Starks, Glenn	WR	5-10	180	22	Texas A&I
7	Harris, John	DB	6-2	200	21	Arizona St.
9	Grimmett, Rich	T	6-6	265	22	Illinois
10	Stewart, Bob	WR	6-5	205	22	Lafayette
11	Halas, George	LB	6-2	235	21	Miami
12	Bergeron, Jeff	RB	6-0	200	22	Lamar

#### FREE AGENTS

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
Carter, Jerome	DB	6-0	180	22	Delaware St.
Clemmons, Jon	G	6-4	245	21	Ark. Tech
Dales, Gene	LB	6-2	220	22	Oregon St.
Drennen, Joe	C-T	6-5	250	22	East. Ky.
Eberle, Tim	LB	6-2	235	22	Canisius
Ellis, Ricky	WR	6-3	210	22	Fullerton
Feller, Steve	DT	6-4	245	22	Texas A&I
Garrett, Lance	S	6-0	195	21	So. Carolina
Gross, Elton	TE	6-5	225	21	Guilford
Justin, Kerry	GB	5-11	175	22	Oregon St.
Lowe, Ralph	K-P	6-2	195	21	Idaho
McCadden, Bill	S	6-1	200	22	Cal Poly
Midboe, Steve	D	6-4	240	22	Minnesota
O'Brien, Mike	S	6-1	195	21	California
O'Gara, Bob	G	6-3	255	21	Miami
Palmer, Scott	QB-P	6-3	205	22	Anderson
Peets, Brian	TE	6-4	225	21	Pacific
Potter, Gaar	DT-G	6-4	255	23	W. Colorado
Renfrow, Mike	T-G	6-4	242	21	N.W. Mo.
Salta, Jeff	FB	6-1	215	22	Portland
Sorenson, Rich	K	6-1	190	23	Chico St.
Steff, Mark	TE-DE	6-10	235	21	Long Beach
Stephens, Frank	S	6-2	205	21	UCLA
Studdard, H.	WR	6-4	208	23	So. Calif.
Taylor, Skip	RB	5-11	200	22	Okla. State
Tisdell, Jeff	QB	6-0	200	21	Reno

# KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

## PREDICTION 5th

**M**arv Levy is a very bright man.

He was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Coe College. He holds a master's degree in history from Harvard.

Which brings up an interesting question: What in hell possessed him to take the Kansas City Chiefs' head coaching job?

The Chiefs spent too long with Hank Stram. They couldn't recover under Paul Wiggin. Now Levy, who won two Grey Cups as head coach of the Montreal Alouettes, is asked to bring order out of chaos.

Owner Lamar Hunt, splattered with Wiggin's blood in that unpleasant massacre, wants some stability in his franchise again. To achieve it, he signed Levy to a 5-year-contract. Marv may need every minute of it.

The Chiefs can't run the ball. They can't stop the running of it. They have the worst defense in the NFL, overall. They have a critical quarterback problem.

First things first.

"You have to build that defense first," says Levy. "I believe a strong defense builds championships."

Backing those words with action, Levy drafted defensive players with his first four selections. They were:

Art Still, Kentucky defensive end.

Sylvester Hicks, Tennessee State defensive tackle.

Gary Spani, Kansas State linebacker.

Danny Johnson, Tennessee State linebacker.

All four could end up as starters. It's not that they are all sure-fire players. It's just that the Chiefs have so few decent players at their positions.

Still was the first defensive lineman taken in the draft. Most teams rated him where the Chiefs did. He has great pass-rush potential. To clear the way for him,

Levy traded veteran defensive end Wilbur Young to San Diego during the draft.

Hicks, a tough, mean guy, can play either tackle or end. He'll probably be used where he's needed most.

Spani should step into the middle linebacker job. He's big and strong enough and a smart player. The job became vacant when Willie Lanier was traded to Baltimore.

Johnson, who still needs a great deal of polish, is one of the fastest linebackers around. Since Jim Lynch retired, he has a big opportunity at once.

**MARV LEVY, Coach.**

*Assistants: Joe Spencer, Bobby Ross, Rod Rust, Walt Corey, Dick Roach, Tom Pagna, Kay Dalton.*

Besides trading Young, Levy did some other housekeeping. He made the announcements, premature as it turned out, that 33-year-old linebacker Billy Andrews and 31-year-old running back Ed Podolak were retiring. He also traded veteran punter Jerrell Wilson to Houston.

There is still a lot of average talent and deadwood on the roster.

If Walt Corey, the team's new defensive line coach, can get something out of two young guys, Cliff Frazier and Keith Simson, as well as develop Still and Hicks, the Chiefs could be set

JACK RUDNAY, right, Kansas City center, battles CURLEY CULP of Oilers.





there in a couple of seasons.

If Levy chooses, he could have a kiddy-kar linebacking unit of Spani, Johnson and Thomas Howard, a second-year man. With Lanier, Lynch and Andrews gone, all Levy has is kids. Jimbo Elrod and Dave Rozumek have just two year's experience and Ray Burks one.

The most experienced defensive lineman is John Lohmeyer, who enters his fifth year. But he is linebacker size. So is Whitney Paul. Willie Lee is 28, but he played only two years.

The picture brightens in the secondary.

Free safety Gary Barbaro won the Chiefs' most valuable player award last year, intercepting eight passes and returning one for 102 yards for a touchdown. That tied an NFL record. Barbaro is starting his third season.

Tim Gray complements Barbaro at strong safety.

Corner back Gary Green, last year's No. 1 draftee, was named to the all-rookie team. Across from him is 13-year veteran Emmitt Thomas, who may be pushed by skinny Tim Collier.

GARY BARBARO was Chief Most Valuable Player in '77 with 8 interceptions.



JAN STENERUD, Kansas City Chiefs placekicker, suffered worst season in '77.

He took an interception back 100 yards for a score.

Ricky Davis and Ricky Wesson are the backups. The draft brought Ricky Odoms, the Southern California star, and Ray Milo of New Mexico State.

Offensively, the biggest trouble spot is quarterback.

Mike Livingston never has established himself as a major-league starter and, at 32, time is running short, especially on a building team.

Livingston threw for 1823 yards and nine touchdowns in '77, but he was intercepted 15 times. It didn't help that the Chiefs' blockers allowed their quarterbacks to be sacked 48 times.

Levy can go with someone younger, 28-year-old Tony Adams, but Adams hasn't proven much in his three NFL seasons. Last year he had one of the highest interception rates in the league as a relief pitcher.

Third-stringer Mark Vitali didn't throw a ball in his rookie season.

There is another possibility: rookie Pete Woods of Missouri, a major talent who was injured often in college.

Whoever is elected will benefit from improved pass receiving. Walter White is one of the best receiving tight ends in football. He caught 48 passes for a 14-yard average and five touchdowns last year. Henry Marshall averaged 19.3 yards on his 23 catches and scored four times.

Now there is another blazer. The Chiefs received young Larry Dorsey from San Diego in the Wilbur Young trade. Dorsey didn't start for the Chargers, but he averaged 19.8 yards on his 10 catches and scored twice.

Dorsey will have to beat out Larry Brunson, who averaged 14.8 yards on 20 catches. But Larry took a hike on the Chiefs during the season which puts him in the unreliable category.

Tony Samuels looked like an adequate tight end backup as a rookie. Also available is Ed Beckman. The wide receiver roster is so shallow, Emmett Edwards, a



journeyman, was signed as a free agent. More help may come from Jerrold McRae of Tennessee State and Bill Kellar of Stanford, both of whom came in the draft.

Levy almost certainly will invest his running game with two young backs, Tony Reed and Mark Bailey, both of whom were '77 rookies.

Reed was runnerup to Podolak in ground gaining with 505 yards. His 59-yard run was the Chiefs' longest. Bailey, a 237-pound thumper, played mostly late in the season and averaged four yards on 66 carries. Reed also was a 4-yard average carrier, which isn't bad considering the Chiefs' line.

Kansas City has two name veterans on its running back roster, John Brockington and MacArthur Lane, but whether they remain there by the start of the season is debatable. Lane is at least his listed 36 and Brockington is 30, but hasn't had a good season in several years.

Two other young runners, Ted McKnight and Arnold Morgado, are untested. John Henry White of Louisiana Tech is the only drafted rookie.

The offensive line is a mystery. There seems to be some talent there, but getting it to produce consistently has been a stickler so far.

The one veteran anchor is center Jack Rudnay, a throwback to the days when the Chiefs were a winner. At 30, Rudnay should remain in Levy's building plans.

Matt Herkenhoff, whose development was held back by two years in the World Football League, has promise at one tackle. Getting Jim Nicholson to play consistently on the other side is a must.

There are two major latent talent among the guard candidates, Charlie Getty and Rod Walters. If each played to his potential it would help. The other experienced guards are Tom Condon and Tom Wickert. Darius Helton is a second-year guard and Bob Simmons a second-year tackle.

Tackle Larry Brown of Miami, Fla., and center Willie Brock of Colorado were the only drafted offensive linemen and they were late picks.

Zenon Andryszyk, a longtime Canadian League star, was signed as a free agent to replace Wilson as the punter.

Jan Stenerud had his worst season as a field goal kicker. He was 0 for 7 from beyond the 40; which suggests he may have lost power in his leg at age 34.

McKnight averaged 25.4 yards as a kickoff return man, but the draft brings a top kickoff and punt returner in Grambling's Robert Woods.

Levy is banking on a great deal of improvement coming from his new coaching staff.

Rod Rust, who was with Marv in Montreal, is his defensive coordinator. Dich Roach, another Montreal aide, will coach the secondary. Other newcomers include Corey, Tom Pagna, Kay Dalton and Bobby Ross. Pagna, a longtime assistant to Ara Parseghian, is making his debut in pro ball. So is Ross, former head coach at The Citadel. Corey comes from Cleveland and Dalton from Buffalo.

The only hold over from Wiggins' staff is offensive line coach Joe Spencer.

#### 1977 LEADERS AND AFC RATINGS

<b>SCORING</b> —Stenerud, 51 points on 27	
<b>RUSHING</b> —Podolak, 133 carries for 550 yds., 4.1 Avg., 5 TDs	16th
<b>PASSING</b> —Livingston, 143 of 282 attempts for 1823 yds., 9 TDs	11th
<b>RECEIVING</b> —White, 48 receptions for 674 yds., 14.0 Avg., 5 TDs	7th
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b> —Barbaro, 8 for 165 yds., 102-yard TD vs. Seattle	3rd
<b>PUNTING</b> —Wilson, 88 punts, 39.9 Avg., longest 59 yds.	3rd
<b>PUNT RETURNS</b> —Green, 14 for 115 yds., 8.2 Avg.	15th
<b>KICKOFF RETURNS</b> —McKnight, 12 for 305 yds., 25.4 Avg.	18th

#### Pre-season Games

Aug. 5 AT Green Bay (N)	
12 MINNESOTA (N)	
20 AT New England	
26 ST. LOUIS (N)	

#### 1978 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 AT Cincinnati	
10 HOUSTON	
17 AT N.Y. Giants	
24 DENVER	7-14
Oct. 1 AT Buffalo	
8 TAMPA BAY	
15 AT Oakland	20-21
22 CLEVELAND	7-44
29 AT Pittsburgh	
Nov. 5 OAKLAND	28-37
12 AT San Diego	21-16
19 SEATTLE	31-34
26 SAN DIEGO	7-23
Dec. 3 BUFFALO	
10 AT Denver	7-23
17 AT Seattle	

#### 1977 Scores

7-27	
20-34	
—	
7-14	
—	
20-21	
7-44	
—	
28-37	
21-16	
31-34	
7-23	
—	
7-23	
—	



ART STILL, KC Chiefs' top draft pick, steps in as regular defensive end.

#### CHIEFS' VETERAN ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yrs. Pro	College
11	Adams, Tony	QB	6-0	198	27	4	Utah St.
53	Andrews, Billy	LB	6-0	220	32	12	S.E. La.
	Andrushyn, Z.	K	6-2	210	32	8	UCLA
56	Ane, Charlie	C	6-1	233	25	4	Michigan St.
39	Bailey, Mark	RB	6-3	237	23	2	Long Beach
53	Ball, Aaron	LB	6-2	230	23	1	Fullerton
26	Barbaro, Gary	S	6-3	198	23	3	Nicholls St.
85	Beckman, Ed	TE	6-4	223	22	2	Florida St.
43	Brockington, J.	RB	6-1	225	29	8	Ohio St.
51	Brown, Ken	C	6-3	240	24	1	New Mex.
83	Brunson, Larry	WR	5-11	180	28	5	Colorado
59	Burks, Ray	LB	6-2	217	22	2	UCLA
37	Collier, Tim	CB	5-11	166	23	3	E. Tex. St.
65	Condon, Tom	G	6-3	240	25	4	Boston Col.
40	Davis, Ricky	DB	6-0	180	24	4	Alabama
	Dorsey, Larry	WR	6-1	195	25	3	Tenn. St.
80	Edwards, E.	WR	6-1	190	25	3	Kansas
57	Elrod, Jimbo	LB	6-0	223	23	3	Oklahoma
61	Frazier, Cliff	DT	6-4	265	25	2	UCLA
77	Getty, Charlie	G	6-4	260	25	5	Penn St.
46	Gray, Tim	S	6-1	200	25	4	Texas A&M
24	Green, Gary	CB	5-11	184	22	2	Baylor
62	Helton, Darius	G	6-2	260	23	2	N.C. Central
60	Herkenhoff, Matt	T	6-4	255	26	3	Minnesota
52	Howard, Thomas	LB	6-2	208	23	2	Texas Tech
42	Lane, MacArthur	RB	6-1	220	35	11	Utah St.
72	Lee, Willie	DE	6-4	250	27	3	B.-Cookman
10	Livingston, Mike	QB	6-4	210	32	11	SMU
71	Lloyd, Jeff	DE	6-6	255	33	2	W. Tex. St.
87	Lohmeyer, John	DE	6-4	229	26	5	Emporia St.
22	McKnight, Ted	RB	6-2	203	23	2	Duluth
89	Marshall, Henry	WR	6-2	205	23	3	Missouri
21	Morgado, Arnold	RB	6-0	210	25	2	Hawaii
70	Nicholson, Jim	T	6-6	275	27	5	Michigan St.
64	Paul, Whitney	DE	6-3	220	24	4	Colorado
14	Podlak, Ed	RB	6-1	220	30	10	Iowa
32	Reed, Tony	RB	5-11	197	22	2	Colorado
50	Rodgers, Otis	LB	6-3	228	23	1	Iowa St.
55	Rozumek, Dave	LB	6-1	212	23	3	N. Hampshire
58	Rudnay, Jack	C	6-3	240	30	9	No'western
81	Samuels, Tony	TE	6-4	229	23	2	B.-Cookman
73	Simmons, Bob	T	6-4	260	23	2	Texas
72	Simons, Keith	DT	6-3	254	23	3	Minnesota
31	Smith, John	RB	5-11	186	23	1	Boise St.
3	Stenerud, Jan	K	6-2	187	34	12	Montana St.
85	Taggart, D.	WR	6-0	180	25	1	Tex. So.
18	Thomas, E.	CB	6-2	192	34	13	Bishop
6	Vitall, Mark	QB	6-5	209	22	2	Purdue
84	Wade, Charlie	WR	5-9	160	27	4	Tenn. St.
76	Walters, Rod	G/T	6-3	258	23	2	Iowa
25	Wesson, Ricky	DB	5-9	163	22	2	SMU
88	White, Walter	TE	6-3	218	26	4	Maryland
66	Wickert, Tom	G/T	6-4	252	25	5	Wash. St.
44	Wilson, Jerrel	P	6-2	222	36	16	So. Miss.
99	Young, Wilbur	DE	6-6	290	28	8	W. Penn

#### DRAFTIES

Round	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
1	Still, Art	DE	6-7	252			Kentucky
2	Hicks, S.	DT-DE	6-4½	248			Tenn. St.
3	Spani, Gary	LB	6-2	230			Kansas St.
4	Johnson, Danny	LB	6-1	216			Tenn. St.
	Woods, Pete	QB	6-3	214			Missouri
5	McRae, Jerrold	WR	6-1	201			Tenn. St.
	Carey, Dwight	DT	6-3	247			Arlington
	Woods, R.	WR-KR	5-6½	159			Grambling
7	Odum, Ricky	DB	6-0	183			So. Calif.
	Kellar, Bill	WR	5-11	187			Stanford
8	White, John H.	RB	5-9	191			L. Tech
9	Brown, Larry	OT	6-5	263			Miami
10	Bryant, Earl	DE-DT	6-4½	277			Jackson St.
11	Milo, Ray	S	5-11	178			New Mex. St.
12	Brock, Willie	C	6-2½	246			Colorado



**SUPER BOWL XII**

At New Orleans, La., Jan. 15, 1978

DALLAS	10	3	7	7-27
DENVER	0	0	10	0-10

**SCORING****FIRST QUARTER**

Dallas—DORSETT, 2-yard run (5 plays after HUGHES intercepted MORTON pass at Denver 25), HERRERA, PAT; HERRERA, 35-yard field goal.

**SECOND QUARTER**

Dallas—HERRERA, 43-yard field goal (6 plays after KYLE intercepted MORTON pass and returned 19 yards to Denver 35).

**THIRD QUARTER**

Denver—TURNER, 47-yard field goal (after drive from Denver 35, kept alive by Dallas 4th down penalty for 12 men on field).  
Dallas—JOHNSON, 45-yard pass from STAUBACH (after 58-yard, 5-play drive). HERRERA, PAT.  
Denver—LYTLE, 1-yard plunge TD (after UPCHURCH 67-yard kickoff runback to Dallas 26 and JENSEN's 16-yard run). TURNER, PAT.

**FOURTH QUARTER**

Dallas—RICHARDS, 29-yard TD pass from NEWHOUSE (just after KYLE recovered loose fumble). HERRERA, PAT.

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

RUSHING—Dallas—JOHNSON, 1 for minus 9 yards; DORSETT, 15 for 66; NEWHOUSE, 14 for 55; P. PEARSON, 3 for 11; STAUBACH, 3 for 6; D. WHITE, 1 for 13; LUDLOW, 1 for 1.  
Denver—KEYWORTH, 5 for 9 yards; ARMSTRONG, 7 for 27; LYTLE, 10 for 35; PERRIN, 3 for 8; JENSEN, 1 for 16; WEESE, 3 for 26.  
PASSING—Dallas—STAUBACH, 17 of 25 for 183 yards; D. WHITE, 1 of 2 for 5; NEWHOUSE, 1 of 1 for 29 (TD).  
Denver—MORTON, 4 of 15 for 39 yards, 4 intercepted; WEESE, 4 of 10 for 22.  
RECEIVING—Dallas—P. PEARSON, 5 for 37 yards; DORSETT, 2 for 11; DUPREE, 4 for 66; NEWHOUSE, 3 for minus 1; JOHNSON, 2 for 13; RICHARDS, 2 for 38; D. PEARSON, 1 for 53.  
Denver—MOSES, 1 for 21 yards; PERRIN, 1 for minus 7; DOLBIN, 2 for 24; ODOMS, 2 for 9; JENSEN, 1 for 5; UPCHURCH, 1 for 9.  
INTERCEPTIONS—Dallas—HUGHES, 1 for 10 yards; KYLE, 1 for 19; BARNES, 1 for 0; HENDERSON, 1 for 27.  
Denver—None.

**TEAM STATISTICS**

	Dallas	Denver
First downs	17	11
Rushes-Yards	38-143	29-121
Passing yards	182	35
Passes-Att., Comp., Int.	28-19-0	25-8-4
Punts-Average	5-41.6	4-38.2
Fumbles-Lost	6-2	4-4
Penalties-Yards	12-94	8-60
ATTENDANCE—76,400		
OFFICIALS—Referee, Jim Tunney; Umpire, Joe Connel; Line Judge, Art Holst; Linesman, Tony Veteri; Back Judge, Ray Douglas; Field Judge, Bob Wortman; Alternates—Cal LePore and Frank Sinkovitz.		

**FINANCIAL STATISTICS**

- Total Revenue \$6.9-million
- Live gate, \$2,267,490 (75,583 @ \$30)
- TV \$4.5 million from NBC Network

**PAYOFF**

- Winning players, \$18,000 each
- Losing players, \$9,000 each
- Winning team, \$42,000 for championship rings @ \$750 each
- Losing team, \$321,000 for championship rings @ \$375 each
- For expenses, each club, \$170,000 plus 80 round trip air tickets to Bowl
- General expenses for league, \$500,000. (Media work; Kits; Publications and Promotions; Media transportation; Working facilities; Communications; Hospitality)
- Officials, \$1,500 each
- Superdome rental, \$50,000 plus miscellaneous expenses.

**ALL SUPER BOWL RESULTS**

- 1967 (I) —GREEN BAY 35, KANSAS CITY 10
- 1968 (II) —GREEN BAY 33, OAKLAND 14
- 1969 (III) —NEW YORK JETS 16, BALTIMORE 7
- 1970 (IV) —KANSAS CITY 23, MINNESOTA 7
- 1971 (V) —BALTIMORE 16, DALLAS 13
- 1972 (VI) —DALLAS 24, MIAMI 3
- 1973 (VII) —MIAMI 14, WASHINGTON 7
- 1974 (VIII) —MIAMI 24, MINNESOTA 7
- 1975 (IX) —PITTSBURGH 16, MINNESOTA 6
- 1976 (X) —PITTSBURGH 21, DALLAS 17
- 1977 (XI) —OAKLAND 32, MINNESOTA 14
- 1978 (XII) —DALLAS 27, DENVER 10

**AFC CHAMPIONSHIP**

At Denver, Colorado, Jan. 1, 1978

OAKLAND	3	0	0	14-17
DENVER	7	0	7	6-20

**SCORING****FIRST QUARTER**

Oakland—MANN, 20-yard field goal (after 18-play drive lasting 8:47).  
Denver—MOSES, 74-yard pass from MORTON; MANN, PAT.

**THIRD QUARTER**

Denver—KEYWORTH, 1-yard run (after MANOR recovered DAVIS fumble on Oakland 17, MORTON moved Broncos to 2-yard line, then McCoy scooped up LYTLE's fumble, ran towards other end zone only to have linesman ED MARION whistle play dead. RICE's turbulent protest of controversial decision drew unspornsmlike conduct penalty and ball was moved to 1-yard line). TURNER, PAT.

**FOURTH QUARTER**

Oakland—CASPER, 7-yard pass from STABLER, MANN, PAT.  
Denver—MOSES, 12-yard pass from MORTON (3 plays after SWENSON intercepted STABLER and returned it 14 yards to Raiders' 17). Bad snap on PAT.  
Oakland—CASPER, 17-yard pass from STABLER (after 74 yards in 8 plays). MANN, PAT.

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

RUSHING—Oakland—VAN EEGHEN, 20 for 71 yards; BANASZAK, 7 for 22; Denver—PERRIN, 11 for 42 yards; LYTLE, 7 for 26; KEYWORTH, 8 for 19; ARMSTRONG, 7 for 16.  
PASSING—Oakland—STABLER, 17 of 35 for 215 yards, 1 interception. Denver—MORTON, 10 of 20 for 224 yards, 1 interception.  
RECEIVING—Oakland—CASPER, 5 for 71 yards; BILETNIKOFF, 4 for 38; BRANCH, 3 for 59; VAN EEGHEN, 3 for 8.  
Denver—MOSES, 5 for 168 yards; PERRIN, 2 for 20.

**TEAM STATISTICS**

	Oakland	Denver
First downs	20	16
Rushes-Yards	36-94	37-91
Passing yards	204	217
Passes-Att., Comp., Int.	35-17-1	20-10-1
Punts-Average	5-36.0	4-40.8
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	0-0
Penalties-Yards	2-6	8-46
ATTENDANCE—74,982		
OFFICIALS—Referee, Chuck Herberling; Umpire, Ralph Morcroft; Linesman, Ed Marion; Line Judge, Bruce Alford; Back Judge, Stan Javie; Field Judge, Armen Terzian.		

**NFC CHAMPIONSHIP**

At Dallas, Texas, Jan. 1, 1978

DALLAS	6	10	0	7-23
MINNESOTA	0	6	0	0-6

**SCORING****FIRST QUARTER**

Dallas—RICHARDS, 32-yard TD pass from STAUBACH (second play after MARTIN recovered MILLER fumble at Minnesota 39). HERRERA kick deflected by ELLER.

**SECOND QUARTER**

Dallas—NEWHOUSE, 5-yard run (after 46 yards on 8 plays). HERRERA, PAT.  
Minnesota—COX, 32-yard field goal (after 44-yard pass interference penalty against WATERS at Dallas 8).  
Minnesota—COX, 37-yard field goal (after LEE passed 9 yards to FOREMAN, 10 to RASHAD, 19 to VOIGHT, 15 to WHITE).  
Dallas—HERRERA, 21-yard field goal (after drive from Dallas 25; STAUBACH passed 12 to D. PEARSON, 16 to DUPREE, 32 and 8 to P. PEARSON).

**FOURTH QUARTER**

Dallas—DORSETT, 11-yard run (after Saldi recovered fumbled punt by MOORE at Minnesota 35 and NEWHOUSE 23-yard rush on 3 carries). HERRERA, PAT.

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

RUSHING—Minnesota—FOREMAN, 21 for 59 yards; MILLER, 3 for 5.  
Dallas—NEWHOUSE, 15 for 81 yards; DORSETT, 19 for 71.  
PASSING—Minnesota—LEE 14 of 31 for 158 yards, 1 interception.  
Dallas—STAUBACH, 12 of 23 for 165 yards, 1 interception.  
RECEIVING—Minnesota—S. WHITE, 3 for 46 yards; MILLER, 2 for 49.  
Dallas—D. PEARSON, 4 for 62 yards; P. PEARSON, 3 for 48.

**TEAM STATISTICS**

	Dallas	Minnesota
First downs	12	16
Rushes-Yards	30-66	39-170
Passing yards	148	158
Return yards	2	67
Passes-Att., Comp., Int.	31-14-1	12-23-1
Punts-Average	8-35.0	8-36.6
Fumbles-Lost	5-3	1-1
Penalties-Yards	5-32	5-24
ATTENDANCE—61,968		
OFFICIALS—Referee, Pat Haggerty; Umpire, Gordon Wells; Linesman, Al Sabato; Line Judge, Dean Look; Back Judge, Tom Kelleher; Field Judge, Dick Dolack.		

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**TIGHT ENDS** (Cont. from page 10)

telegraphed their offensive intentions by employing two tight ends. When Paul Seymour was in the lineup, the enemy could plan on defending a running play. When he was replaced by Reuben Gant, it usually meant a pass was coming.

It wasn't exactly slick strategy.

Gant was so disgusted that he played out his option. But then the Bills hired Chuck Knox, the highly-successful Los Angeles coach, to run things beginning in '78. Knox was not thrilled with the tight end shuttle system.

"Signing Gant is one of our priorities," he said.

Seymour probably will be a tackle this year.

The New York Jets did their switching last year. The Jets are in the midst of an enormous offensive changeover, with young Richard Todd succeeding Joe Namath at quarterback.

In order to help Todd and also to hype his running game, rookie coach Walt Michaels shuffled his receivers last year. He moved wide receiver Jerome Barkum to tight end and tight end Richard Caster to the outside.

Ironically, both had been college tight ends at the same school, Jackson State.

Caster suffered a broken hand, which limited his playing time, but even so, the move obviously was a success. Barkum averaged 17.3 yards on his 26 catches just about what he was doing as a wide receiver. His blocking helped the running game and he became Todd's security blanket, leading the club with six touchdown receptions.

Caster averaged his usual 20 yards on 10 catches and when he is healthy the shakeup should reap a lot more.

Tight ends are so valuable, that they seldom are traded.

There are only two regulars in the NFL who have been traded: Raymond Chester of Baltimore (who came from Oakland in a big deal for Bubba Smith) and Bob Klein of San Diego, who would have retired if he had stayed in Los Angeles.

The only other tight end of note who was traded is Charles

Young of the Rams, who had played out his option in Philadelphia. His rights and those of quarterback Ron Jaworski were then swapped. Jaworski also had played out his option.

Kansas City's tight end Walter White, who was the Chiefs' leading receiver, came on waivers from over-stocked Pittsburgh a few years ago. Greg Latta of the Bears played in the World Football League for ex-Chicago coach Jack Pardee, then his rights were traded from Baltimore to Chicago.

Fugett played out his option in Dallas, where he played behind Dupree, and Washington signed him.

It's easy to see why the old scout thinks McAfee is the premium player coming out of this year's draft.

The team which drafted McAfee, incidentally, was the San Francisco 49ers. Joe Thomas, the 49ers' general manager, has a well-deserved reputation for having an excellent eye not only for talent but how it should be deployed.

He had a two-pronged idea in mind when he selected McAfee.

"First, we wanted somebody who could help O.J. Simpson turn the corner," explained Thomas.

The 49ers are in the process of building an offensive line. Since Simpson figures to play only two more seasons, they couldn't take their time about getting him some help. McAfee's blocking ability will be put to immediate use.

Then there is the case of Jim Plunkett.

When the 49ers traded a fortune in draft choices to obtain the veteran quarterback three seasons ago, it was assumed that he would be an immediate smash hit for his new team. He wasn't. And when he failed to produce as advertised, his confidence was deflated.

McAfee's ability as a receiver, particularly as a possession catcher in what will probably be a run-oriented offense to capitalize upon O.J.'s presence, should help re-inflate Plunkett's confidence.

When the Buccaneers traded the first pick in the draft to Houston, they accepted all draft choices in return payment—except for one item.

The one player Tampa Bay included in their package they would get for the first pick was a tight end, young Jimmy Giles.

Giles is a second-year player with classic tight end abilities. John McKay, the Bucs' coach, hopes Giles can give him just about what McAfee might have, with the added bonus of a year's experience.

There is a problem with tight ends. They wear out.

Kramer had just a half dozen productive years. Mackey averaged 40 pass catches a year for seven years, then abruptly slid. Mike Ditka averaged 62 catches for his first four seasons, then became an ordinary player.

There are rare exceptions. Jackie Smith of the St. Louis Cardinals had 11 big seasons.

But the careers of many tight ends burn out for obvious reasons.

"We perform two jobs," says Mackey. "We run pass patterns, long as well as medium and short, just like the wide receivers do. And that's not only in a game, that's every day in practice."

"On top of that, we have to block like an offensive lineman. Anyone's body can take just so much of that before it begins to wear out."

For the last few years, tight ends also have labored under another handicap. They have been mugged in broad daylight by linebackers and safeties who were able to resort to all sorts of dubious methods to prevent them from getting out into their pass routes.

But last spring the NFL owners voted to add an extra official to the officiating crews for each game. The extra man's principal duties will be to monitor the center of the field, especially the area in which hammer locks and half nelsons have been applied to the tight ends.

The expectation is that the Caspers, Francis and McAfees will be reasonably free and more important than ever. ■



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## 1978 NFL SCHEDULE

ALL TIMES LOCAL  
TV—National Television

SEPT.	2—New York Giants at Tampa Bay	8:00	29—Baltimore at Miami	TV	4:00
	3—Green Bay at Detroit	1:00			
	Houston at Atlanta	1:00	Buffalo at Cleveland		1:00
	Kansas City at Cincinnati	1:00	Denver at Seattle		1:00
	Los Angeles at Philadelphia	1:00	Detroit at Chicago		1:00
	Miami at New York Jets	1:00	Houston at Cincinnati		1:00
	Minnesota at New Orleans	1:00	Kansas City at Pittsburgh		1:00
	Oakland at Denver	TV	New York Giants at New Orleans		1:00
	Pittsburgh at Buffalo	1:00	New York Jets at New England		1:00
	St. Louis at Chicago	1:00	St. Louis at Philadelphia		1:00
	San Diego at Seattle	1:00	San Diego at Oakland		1:00
	San Francisco at Cleveland	1:00	San Francisco at Washington		1:00
	Washington at New England	1:00	Tampa Bay at Green Bay		1:00
	4—Baltimore at Dallas	TV	30—Los Angeles at Atlanta	TV	9:00
	9—Detroit at Tampa Bay	8:00	NOV.		
	10—Atlanta at Los Angeles	1:00	5—Cincinnati at San Diego		1:00
	Chicago at San Francisco	1:00	Cleveland at Houston		1:00
	Cincinnati at Cleveland	1:00	Dallas at Miami	TV	4:00
	Dallas at New York Giants	1:00	Detroit at Minnesota		1:00
	Houston at Kansas City	1:00	Green Bay at Philadelphia		1:00
	Miami at Baltimore	TV	New England at Buffalo		1:00
	New England at St. Louis	1:00	New Orleans at Pittsburgh		1:00
	New Orleans vs. Green Bay at Milw.	1:00	New York Giants at St. Louis		12:00
	New York Jets at Buffalo	4:00	New York Jets at Denver		2:00
	Oakland at San Diego	1:00	Oakland at Kansas City		1:00
	Philadelphia at Washington	1:00	San Francisco at Atlanta		1:00
	Seattle at Pittsburgh	1:00	Seattle at Chicago		1:00
	11—Denver at Minnesota	TV	6—Washington at Baltimore	TV	9:00
	17—Buffalo at Miami	4:00	12—Atlanta at New Orleans		1:00
	Chicago at Detroit	1:00	Baltimore at Seattle		1:00
	Cleveland at Atlanta	1:00	Chicago at Minnesota	TV	3:00
	Dallas at Los Angeles	TV	Dallas vs. Green Bay at Milw.		1:00
	Kansas City at New York Giants	1:00	Denver at Cleveland		1:00
	Oakland at Green Bay	1:00	Houston at New England		1:00
	Philadelphia at New Orleans	1:00	Kansas City at San Diego		1:00
	Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	1:00	Miami at Buffalo		1:00
	San Diego at Denver	2:00	New York Giants at Washington		1:00
	San Francisco at Houston	1:00	New York Jets at Philadelphia		1:00
	Seattle at New York Jets	1:00	Pittsburgh at Los Angeles	TV	5:00
	Tampa Bay at Minnesota	1:00	St. Louis at San Francisco		1:00
	Washington at St. Louis	1:00	Tampa Bay at Detroit		1:00
	18—Baltimore at New England	TV	13—Oakland at Cincinnati	TV	9:00
	24—Atlanta at Tampa Bay	4:00	19—Atlanta at Chicago		1:00
	Baltimore at Buffalo	1:00	Buffalo at Tampa Bay		1:00
	Cleveland at Pittsburgh	1:00	Cincinnati at Pittsburgh		4:00
	Denver at Kansas City	1:00	Cleveland at Baltimore		2:00
	Detroit at Seattle	1:00	Detroit at Oakland		1:00
	Green Bay at San Diego	1:00	Green Bay at Denver		2:00
	Los Angeles at Houston	1:00	Los Angeles at San Francisco	TV	1:00
	Miami at Philadelphia	1:00	New England at New York Jets		1:00
	New England at Oakland	TV	New Orleans at Dallas		1:00
	New Orleans at Cincinnati	1:00	Philadelphia at New York Giants		1:00
	New York Jets at Washington	1:00	St. Louis at Washington		1:00
	St. Louis at Dallas	TV	San Diego at Minnesota		1:00
	San Francisco at New York Giants	4:00	Seattle at Kansas City		1:00
	25—Minnesota at Chicago	TV	20—Miami at Houston	TV	8:00
OCT.			23 (Thanksgiving Day)		
	1—Cincinnati at San Francisco	1:00	Denver at Detroit	TV	12:30
	Detroit vs. Green Bay at Milw.	1:00	Washington at Dallas	TV	2:30
	Houston at Cleveland	1:00	26—Cincinnati at Houston		1:00
	Kansas City at Buffalo	1:00	Los Angeles at Cleveland		1:00
	Los Angeles at New Orleans	1:00	Minnesota at Green Bay		1:00
	Minnesota at Tampa Bay	1:00	New England at Baltimore	TV	4:00
	New York Giants at Atlanta	1:00	New York Giants at Buffalo		1:00
	Oakland at Chicago	TV	New York Jets at Miami		1:00
	Philadelphia at Baltimore	2:00	New Orleans at Atlanta		1:00
	Pittsburgh at New York Jets	1:00	Philadelphia at St. Louis		1:00
	St. Louis at Miami	1:00	San Diego at Kansas City		1:00
	San Diego at New England	1:00	Seattle at Oakland		1:00
	Seattle at Denver	2:00	Tampa Bay at Chicago		1:00
	2—Dallas at Washington	TV	27—Pittsburgh at San Francisco	TV	6:00
	8—Atlanta at Pittsburgh	1:00	DEC.		
	Baltimore at St. Louis	1:00	3—Atlanta at Cincinnati		1:00
	Buffalo at New York Jets	1:00	Baltimore at New York Jets		1:00
	Chicago at Green Bay	1:00	Buffalo at Kansas City		1:00
	Cleveland at New Orleans	1:00	Cleveland at Seattle		1:00
	Denver at San Diego	1:00	Denver at Oakland	TV	6:00
	Houston at Oakland	1:00	Detroit at St. Louis		1:00
	Minnesota at Seattle	1:00	Green Bay at Tampa Bay		1:00
	New York Giants at Dallas	1:00	Los Angeles at New York Giants		1:00
	Philadelphia at New England	1:00	Miami at Washington		1:00
	San Francisco at Los Angeles	TV	New England at Dallas	TV	3:00
	Tampa Bay at Kansas City	1:00	Philadelphia at Minnesota		1:00
	Washington at Detroit	1:00	Pittsburgh at Houston		1:00
	9—Cincinnati at Miami	TV	San Francisco at New Orleans		1:00
	15—Buffalo at Houston	1:00	4—Chicago at San Diego	TV	6:00
	Dallas at St. Louis	1:00	9—Baltimore at Pittsburgh	TV	1:00
	Detroit at Atlanta	1:00	Minnesota at Detroit	TV	4:00
	Kansas City at Oakland	1:00	10—Buffalo at New England		1:00
	Los Angeles at Minnesota	TV	Dallas at Philadelphia		1:00
	Miami at San Diego	1:00	Green Bay at Chicago		1:00
	New England at Cincinnati	1:00	Houston at New Orleans		1:00
	New Orleans at San Francisco	1:00	Kansas City at Denver		2:00
	New York Jets at Baltimore	2:00	New York Jets at Cleveland		1:00
	Pittsburgh at Cleveland	1:00	Oakland at Miami	TV	4:00
	Seattle vs. Green Bay at Milw.	1:00	St. Louis at New York Giants		1:00
	Tampa Bay at New York Giants	1:00	Seattle at San Diego		1:00
	Washington at Philadelphia	1:00	Tampa Bay at San Francisco		1:00
	16—Chicago at Denver	TV	Washington at Atlanta		1:00
	22—Atlanta at San Francisco	1:00	11—Cincinnati at Los Angeles	TV	6:00
	Chicago at Tampa Bay	1:00	16—Chicago at Washington	TV	1:00
	Cincinnati at Buffalo	1:00	Pittsburgh at Denver	TV	2:00
	Cleveland at Kansas City	1:00	17—Atlanta at St. Louis		1:00
	Denver at Baltimore	TV	Buffalo at Baltimore		2:00
	Green Bay at Minnesota	1:00	Cleveland at Cincinnati		1:00
	Miami at New England	1:00	Dallas at New York Jets		1:00
	New Orleans at Los Angeles	1:00	Green Bay at Los Angeles		1:00
	Oakland at Seattle	1:00	Kansas City at Seattle		1:00
	Philadelphia at Dallas	1:00	Minnesota at Oakland	TV	1:00
	St. Louis at New York Jets	1:00	New Orleans at Tampa Bay		1:00
	San Diego at Detroit	1:00	New York Giants at Philadelphia		1:00
	Washington at New York Giants	1:00	San Diego at Houston		3:00
	23—Houston at Pittsburgh	TV	San Francisco at Detroit		1:00
		7:30	18—New England at Miami	TV	9:00

## CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

DEC. 24—AFC-NFC First Round Playoffs  
 30—AFC Divisional Playoffs  
 31—NFC Divisional Playoffs  
 JAN. 7—AFC Championship Game  
 NFC Championship Game

## SUPER BOWL XIII

JANUARY 21, 1979

At Orange Bowl, Miami, Florida

JAN. 23—AFC-NFC Pro Bowl, Los Angeles (N)

## TV DOUBLEHEADER GAMES

SEPT. 3—Oakland at Denver  
 10—Miami at Baltimore  
 17—Dallas at Los Angeles  
 24—St. Louis at Dallas  
 OCT. 1—Oakland at Chicago  
 8—San Francisco at Los Angeles  
 15—Los Angeles at Minnesota  
 22—Denver at Baltimore  
 29—Baltimore at Miami  
 NOV. 5—Dallas at Miami  
 12—Chicago at Minnesota  
 19—Los Angeles at San Francisco  
 26—New England at Baltimore  
 DEC. 3—New England at Dallas  
 10—Oakland at Miami  
 17—Minnesota at Oakland

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## PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME RANKINGS

TOP 20 rankings, created in 1969, are displayed in Hall of Fame Museum at Canton, Ohio, along with exhibits of 93 enshrinees and many historic items.

Only the peerless Jim Brown in first place, Jim Taylor in No. 4 and Floyd Little in the eighth spot remained in their same places in the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Top Twenty rushing rankings during the 1977 season. All other positions changed hands.

Until 1977, Brown who excelled for nine seasons with the Cleveland Browns, was the only person ever to rush for more than 10,000 yards. The Buffalo Bills' O. J. Simpson became the second to reach this plateau in his injury-shortened 1977 campaign. By gaining 557 yards in just seven games, O. J. reached 10,183 yards, good for second place in the all-time rankings. He is still 2129 yards shy of Brown's career total, however, and if he is to become history's most prolific rusher, he most likely will have to play at least two more seasons. It is unlikely that Simpson, who holds the current season mark of 2003 yards, could reach Brown's total even in a 16-game season.

Brown, Simpson and the Pittsburgh Steelers' Franco Harris are the only long-term runners to average more than 1000 yards per season. Brown, in nine years, averaged a stunning 1368 yards while Simpson, also in nine years, has averaged 1131 yards. Harris, in just

his sixth season, moved into the Top Twenty for the first time in 1977, going all the way to the ninth spot with an 1162-yard season. Harris' lifetime total is 6295 yards, an average of 1049 yards per campaign.

Two other NFL stars, also in their sixth seasons, entered the Top Twenty in 1977. One was Larry McCutcheon of the Los Angeles Rams, now No. 17 with a career mark of 5523 yards.

The other newcomer was Lydell Mitchell of the Baltimore Colts, a teammate of Harris' at Penn State before they both turned pro in 1972. Mitchell, with an 1159-yard campaign, jumped in the No. 18 spot with 5487 career yards.

Only two other active players figured in the rushing rankings in 1977—Larry Csonka of the New York Giants, who gained only 464 yards but managed to move from No. 7 to No. 6 with 6933 lifetime yards and Calvin Hill of the Washington Redskins who moved two places to 16th with 257 yards gained. His career total now is 5567 yards.

Of those players active in 1977, John Brockington, who finished out the season with the Kansas City Chiefs, has 5185 yards while the Minnesota Vikings' Chuck Foreman has 4915 yards. They stand next in line for the Top Twenty.



WALTER PAYTON of Bears, can run into top 20 list in only fourth year.

### PAYTON MAY REACH TOP TWENTY IN FOURTH SEASON

CANTON, Ohio—Since the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Top Twenty display was created in 1969, only two players, Gale Sayers and O. J. Simpson, have reached the Top Twenty among rushers in their first five seasons.

Sayers reached the No. 16 position after the 1969 season, his fifth with the Chicago Bears. At the time, the Kansas Komet, now a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, had amassed 4866 yards and the yardage necessary to break into the Top Twenty was 4630 yards, Abner Haynes' 20th place total that year.

Four years later, just after his record-shattering 2003-yard season with the 1973 Buffalo Bills, Simpson entered the Top Twenty, also in the 16th position, with a career mark of 5181 yards. By that time, the 20th place figure was 5138 yards, held by Clem Daniels.

But in the 1978 season, it is highly possible that a new star will enter the Top Twenty in his only FOURTH pro football campaign. That star is Walter Payton, the brightest light on the Bears' horizon since the days of the dazzling Sayers.

After just three seasons, Payton shows 3921 career yards, an average of 1307 per campaign. Another "average" performance of 1307 yards in 1978 would not quite boost Payton into the Top Twenty, inasmuch as the current No. 20 rusher is the retired Dick Bass with 5417 yards. A repeat of Payton's 1852-yard 1977 campaign, however, would boost him well into the Top Twenty. With the NFL moving to a 16-game regular-season schedule in 1978, such a performance by Payton is a definite possibility.

Under any circumstances, Payton has already established himself among the elite rushers of pro football history.

### LEADING LIFETIME RUSHERS

(At the start of the 1978 season)

Rank	Player	League	Yrs.	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
1	Jim Brown	NFL	9	2359	12312	5.2	106
2	O. J. Simpson*	AFL	9	2123	10183	4.8	57
3	Joe Perry	AAFC-NFL	16	1929	9723	5.0	71
4	Jim Taylor	NFL	10	1941	8597	4.4	83
5	Leroy Kelly	NFL	10	1727	7274	4.2	74
6	Larry Csonka*	AFL	9	1580	6933	4.4	46
7	J. H. Johnson	NFL-AFL	13	1571	6803	4.3	48
8	Floyd Little	AFL	9	1641	6323	3.8	43
9	Franco Harris*		6	1435	6295	4.4	53
10	Don Perkins	NFL	8	1500	6217	4.1	42
11	Ken Willard	NFL	10	1622	6105	3.8	45
12	Larry Brown	NFL	8	1530	5875	3.8	35
13	Steve Van Buren	NFL	8	1320	5860	4.3	69
14	Bill Brown	NFL	14	1649	5838	3.4	52
15	Rick Casares	NFL-AFL	12	1431	5797	4.1	49
16	Calvin Hill*	NFL	8	1314	5567	4.2	40
17	Lawrence McCutcheon*		6	1244	5523	4.4	23
18	Lydell Mitchell*		6	1391	5487	3.9	27
19	Mike Garrett	AFL	8	1308	5481	4.2	35
20	Dick Bass	NFL	10	1218	5417	4.4	34

\*Active in 1977—Hall of Fame members in italics.

Franco Harris, Lawrence McCutcheon and Lydell Mitchell all were added to the Top Twenty in 1977 and they replaced Jim Nance (5401 yards), Hugh McElhenny (5281 yards) and Lenny Moore (5174 yards). Of those players active in 1977, John Brockington (5185 yards) and Chuck Foreman (4915 yards) stand next in line for the Top Twenty rankings.

When it comes to quality in passing statistics, Otto Graham and Ken Stabler rank as the top two forward passers of all time.

When it comes to quantity, Fran Tarkenton wins hands down in four major passing categories with mammoth leads over runnerup Johnny Unitas in all four divisions.

Graham, who led the Cleveland Browns to 10 successive divisional or league championships in the 1946-1955 decade, holds the lifetime leading point rating of 86.8 only when his four-year

AAFC career is taken into account. When his NFL play is considered by itself, he drops to 10th in the career ratings with a 78.1 score.

Stabler, on the other hand, not only is a newcomer to the Top Twenty rankings but the NFL's career leader with an 83.6 score. The Oakland Raiders ace, in his eighth pro season, passed the necessary 1500-attempt plateau to rank as a career leader in mid-season, 1977. While his career rating score actually dropped from 86.2 to 83.6 during the course of the season, Stabler managed to keep ahead of both Sonny Jurgensen (82.8) and Len Dawson (82.6) to maintain the No. 1 NFL spot and the No. 2 all-leagues ranking.

Meanwhile, the Cincinnati Bengal's trigger-sharp thrower, Ken Anderson, suffered through one of his poorer seasons statistically in 1977 and dropped from the No. 1 NFL spot to a No. 5 overall ranking behind Graham, Stabler, Jurgensen and Dawson. Anderson started the 1977 campaign with an 84.2 point rating but fell to 82.1 during the season.

Sixth highest among the all-time passers is Tarkenton, the ageless Minnesota Vikings signal-caller who suffered the first major injury of his 17-year career in 1977. Tarkenton's point score is an excellent 81.5 but it is in the quantity categories that he outshines all others. He leads in all four major passing categories with the following totals: attempts, 5895; completions, 3341; yards gained passing, 43,535; and touchdown passes, 317.

Second to Tarkenton in all four categories is the fabled Unitas, whose career point rating of 78.2 puts him easily in the Top Ten passers of all time. His category totals, while far behind Tarkenton, are nonetheless impressive: attempts, 5186; completions, 2830; yards, 40,239; and TD passes, 290.

Career leadership among the top forward passers is determined by mathematical formula based on quality of performance, rather than quantity, in four different categories—one percentage of completions, percentage of touchdowns, percentage of interceptions and average yards per attempt. If leadership were based on quantity, Fran Tarkenton of the Minnesota Vikings would rank No. 1 in four categories. (The passer's regular "efficiency" ranking is indicated in parenthesis and passers active in 1977 are indicated with an asterisk.)

#### TOTAL PASSES ATTEMPTED (At the start of the 1978 season)

1. Fran Tarkenton*	(6)	5895
2. Johnny Unitas	(9)	5186
3. John Hadl*	(31)	4687
4. Roman Gabriel*	(15)	4498
5. John Brodie	(21)	4491
6. Y. A. Tittle	(16)	4395
7. Norm Snead	(347)	4353
8. Sonny Jurgensen	(3)	4262
9. George Blanda	(41)	4007
10. Joe Namath*	(347)	3762
11. Len Dawson	(4)	3741
12. Bobby Layne	(36)	3700
13. Jim Hart*	(327)	3423
14. Charley Johnson	(287)	3392
15. Babe Parilli	(43)	3330
16. Bart Starr	(8)	3149
17. Jack Kemp	(46)	3073
18. Sammy Baugh	(23)	2995
19. Bill Kilmer*	(25)	2938
20. Tobin Rote	(47)	2907

#### TOTAL TOUCHDOWN PASSES

1. Fran Tarkenton*	(6)	317
2. Johnny Unitas	(9)	290
3. Sonny Jurgensen	(3)	255
4. John Hadl*	(31)	244
5. Y. A. Tittle	(16)	242
6. Len Dawson	(4)	239
7. George Blanda	(41)	236
8. John Brodie	(21)	214
9. Roman Gabriel*	(15)	201
10. Norm Snead	(347)	196
10. Bobby Layne	(36)	196
12. Sammy Baugh	(23)	186
13. Babe Parilli	(43)	176
14. Otto Graham	(1)	174
15. Norm Van Brocklin	(12)	173
15. Charley Conerly	(30)	173
15. Joe Namath*	(347)	173
18. Charley Johnson	(287)	170
19. Darley Lamonica	(20)	164
20. Earl Morrall	(17)	161
20. Bob Griese*	(11)	161

#### LEADING LIFETIME PASSERS

(At the start of the 1978 season)

##### MINIMUM 1500 ATTEMPTS

Rank	Player	Pre-1970 League	Yrs.	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.	Points
1	Otto Graham	AAFC-NFL	10	2626	1464	23,584	174	135	86.8
2	Ken Stabler*	AFL	8	1577	945	12,519	108	91	83.6
3	Sonny Jurgensen	NFL	18	4262	2433	32,224	255	189	82.8
4	Len Dawson	NFL-AFL	19	3741	2136	28,711	239	183	82.6
5	Ken Anderson		7	2127	1208	15,471	99	69	82.1
6	Fran Tarkenton*	NFL	17	5895	3341	43,535	317	234	81.5
7	Roger Staubach*	NFL	9	2084	1187	15,924	101	82	81.2
8	Bart Starr	NFL	16	3149	1808	24,718	152	138	80.3
9	Johnny Unitas	NFL	18	5186	2830	40,239	290	253	78.2
10	Frank Ryan	NFL	13	2133	1090	16,042	149	111	77.7
11	Bob Griese*	AFL	11	2784	1541	20,351	161	141	76.8
12	Norm Van Brocklin	NFL	12	2895	1553	23,611	173	178	75.3
13	Sid Luckman	NFL	12	1744	904	14,686	137	132	75.0
14	Don Meredith	NFL	9	2308	1170	17,199	135	111	74.7
15	Roman Gabriel*	NFL	16	4498	2366	29,444	201	149	74.5
16	Y. A. Tittle	AAFC-NFL	17	4395	2427	33,070	242	248	74.4
17	Earl Morrall	NFL	21	2689	1379	20,809	161	148	74.2
18	Frank Albert	AAFC-NFL	7	1564	831	10,795	115	98	73.5
19	Greg Landry*	NFL	10	1670	909	11,999	79	80	73.1
20	Darley Lamonica	AFL	12	2601	1288	19,154	164	138	72.9

\*Active in 1977—Hall of Fame members in italics.

Both Ken Stabler and Greg Landry, by virtue of reaching the minimum 1500-attempt plateau, entered the Top Twenty in 1977. They displaced John Brodie (72.3) and Billy Wade (72.2). Of those players active in 1977 with more than 1500 attempts, Bill Kilmer (71.4) and Bill Munson (71.1) rank highest among those not on the Top Twenty list. However, one other active player, Bert Jones (80.1), should reach the 1500-attempt mark during the 1978 season and thus enter the Top Twenty rankings.

#### TOTAL PASSES COMPLETED

1. Fran Tarkenton*	(6)	3341
2. Johnny Unitas	(9)	2830
3. John Brodie	(21)	2469
4. Sonny Jurgensen	(3)	2433
5. Y. A. Tittle	(16)	2427
6. Roman Gabriel*	(15)	2366
7. John Hadl*	(31)	2363
8. Norm Snead	(347)	2276
9. Len Dawson	(4)	2136
10. George Blanda	(41)	1911
11. Joe Namath*	(347)	1886
12. Bobby Layne	(36)	1814
13. Bart Starr	(8)	1808
14. Charley Johnson	(287)	1737
15. Jim Hart*	(327)	1724
16. Sammy Baugh	(23)	1693
17. Bill Kilmer*	(25)	1562
18. Norm Van Brocklin	(12)	1553
19. Babe Parilli	(43)	1552
20. Bob Griese*	(11)	1541

#### TOTAL YARDS PASSING

1. Fran Tarkenton*	(6)	41,801
2. Johnny Unitas	(9)	40,239
3. John Hadl*	(31)	33,513
4. Y. A. Tittle	(16)	33,070
5. Sonny Jurgensen	(3)	32,224
6. John Brodie	(21)	31,548
7. Norm Snead	(347)	30,797
8. Roman Gabriel*	(15)	29,444
9. Len Dawson	(4)	28,711
10. Joe Namath*	(347)	27,663
11. George Blanda	(41)	26,920
12. Bobby Layne	(36)	26,768
13. Bart Starr	(8)	24,718
14. Charley Johnson	(287)	24,410
15. Jim Hart*	(327)	23,861
16. Norm Van Brocklin	(12)	23,611
17. Otto Graham	(1)	21,584
18. Babe Parilli	(43)	22,681
19. Sammy Baugh	(23)	21,886
20. Jack Kemp	(46)	21,218



**BLUNDERED** (Continued from page 7)

football. Anyone that incompetent should not be allowed to officiate."

From Los Angeles, Carroll Rosenbloom of the Rams said Wilson should allow him to pay half of whatever fine Rozelle drops on the Buffalo owner. Rosenbloom was simpatico with Wilson's commentary. "If he's any kind of man, he's got to give me that privilege," Rosenbloom said. "When a man gets robbed like that, he must give me part of the action. I know the feeling. I have lost two major playoff games because of bad officiating. I suffered in silence and I wound up with a coronary."

Al Davis said in this 1975 case: "We have to get rid of incompetent officials in this league and we will."

Bud Grant, the Minnesota coach who has tangled at times with Rozelle, added: "The NFL is a multimillion thing being handled by amateurs on Sunday afternoon."

Wilson was fined \$5,000 by Rozelle. Rosenbloom was not permitted the opportunity to pay half of it. But instead Rozelle hit Rosenbloom with a \$5,000 fine of his very own. Davis and Grant were fined unspecified amounts.

And the problem remains: How to cure the problem.

It has been suggested if the TV replays show definitively all fumbles and how they have happened that the NFL rig a plan to use TV as the final say. There are proponents of the idea and those who say no because it would eliminate the humanness from the game. It also would eliminate the mistakes that have embarrassed pro football. But is there a practical way?

Rozelle touched upon this at the end of last season.

"If it's developed and can be feasible I'd have no objection to the instant replay," Rozelle said. "It has come up before and there are negatives.

"One, if you're talking about doing it right—it might entail 10 or 12 games—it would cost \$150,000 to \$200,000 a game or \$46 million a year. Two, on TV you do not always get a clear picture of the game. Suppose we

gave each team three challenges a game in which the team could ask the TV tape be used. Three, on fumbles on TV you don't know when the whistle blows. Say in one instance New England challenges on the fumble. Then Baltimore says, 'the whistle blew. Our players instinctively stopped.'

"We are going to research this. We are not opposed to supplementing officials. It's better than what we went through. But we have to find a feasible method."

A few weeks later Rozelle announced the trial plan of using instant replays as an officiating aide during the 1978 preseason. It was to be part of a study, using it in seven exhibition games, he said. This could be the first step of the cure.

"We've made arrangements with the networks so we can get a booth for the man who'll be monitoring the game, and we'll have a director for him. The individual (a representative from the league office) will have the opportunity to run plays back and look at them.

"By dry run we mean he's not going to overrule any officials' decisions; he's not going to have any communications with the field."

The pilot idea was to determine the time necessary to review debatable plays and decide whether the officials on the field called them correctly.

Ultimately, if it can be made sophisticated and then perfected, pro football could adopt the electronic check on human error by the zebras.

Part of the problem has been caused by the league's bent for protecting its precious quarterbacks from mayhem. Don Weiss, Rozelle's aide, cited the quick whistle on Bert Jones' fumble. He admitted there is a deliberate double standard.

"Officials rule differently when quarterbacks have the ball," Weiss said.

It is fine to be motherhen cautious of a quarterback when his foot is planted to pass. It is proper to be overprotective when the quarterback has just thrown and is vulnerable to a rotter of a

defensive tackle with a mean streak.

But Jones, in the Baltimore controversy, was a ball carrier. He was afoot and struggling when Silva tooted the non-fumble play dead. Silva's view of the ball falling from Jones' hands was blocked. But the eagle eye of television saw it happen. And the play was shown again and again and again.

There were other cases that could have turned nasty last year.

Denver, before it got lucky against Oakland, was almost kayoed by a bad call in the playoff game with Pittsburgh. A legitimate touchdown catch was taken away from the Broncos by an official. He ruled one offensive player tipped the ball forward to a teammate. Actually, a defensive player had deflected the ball, the replay proved.

The key word is proved.

Rozelle strives for absolute honesty. When officials somehow missed Mean Joe Greene punching a rival in the Pittsburgh-Denver playoff, Rozelle fined the assailant \$5,000 after viewing the films.

As in the Houston case, films were used. There is precedence.

Rozelle is interested in improvement always. That is important. The tipped pass rule has been changed so that accidental tipping of a pass from one offensive player back to a teammate can be permitted. But it will remain illegal still to bat the ball forward toward the opponent's goal line.

And to help the harried zebras, this year there will be a seventh official in the crews on the field. The new man is to be called the side judge. His duties include scrutiny of eligible receivers and assisting in certain decisions on out of bounds spotting. Such as spotting the dangling foot not on the ground in the muffed fumbled call in the Houston travesty.

Some day soon, it seems, pro football will add the electronic official to reverse on-the-field bloopers by the officials.

And once pro football goes to electronic checks, you can bet baseball will be the first to follow.

# CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**By Pat Hickey**

Currently with the Toronto Sun, Pat Hickey has covered CFL activity past 10 years.

## PREDICTIONS

### Eastern Conference

1. Montreal Alouettes
2. Toronto Argonauts
3. Ottawa Rough Riders
4. Hamilton Tiger-Cats

### Western Conference

1. Edmonton Eskimos
2. Winnipeg Blue Bombers
3. British Columbia Lions
4. Saskatchewan Roughriders
5. Calgary Stampeders

**E**ast is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet.

Rudyard Kipling could have been describing the Canadian Football League when he wrote that line.

The CFL has, since its infancy,

been locked in a continual struggle between its Eastern and Western Conferences. Basically, the battle results from a difference in philosophies—the five Western clubs are community-owned and are generally located in smaller cities. The four East-

TERRY METCALF who signed with Toronto, ranked 8th in NFC rushing with 739 yards on 149 attempts (5.0 average) and four touchdowns, one a 65-yard TD.



ern teams, on the other hand, are privately-owned and are located in major centers.

Until recently, the teams had one thing in common—poverty. It was rare for a Canadian Football League team to finish in the black and outside revenue was needed to keep teams alive. The Western clubs solved their financial difficulties by running \$100-a-plate dinners while the Eastern teams depended on the philanthropy of their millionaire owners.

But the situation has changed radically. Montreal, which lost more than \$2 million in five years, moved to the new 70,000-seat Olympic Stadium midway through the 1976 season and has been enjoying sellout crowds ever since. The capacity of Toronto's Exhibition Stadium has been increased from 30,000 to 54,000 while Edmonton—the most affluent Western team—will occupy the new 44,000-seat Commonwealth Games stadium later this year.

Expanded stadiums throughout the league—Vancouver's Empire Stadium is the only stadium which hasn't been enlarged in the past five years—have produced record attendance figures in each of the past two seasons. And with expansion reaching Edmonton and Saskatchewan this season, the record will most certainly be broken again in 1978.

But the record attendances have also brought record headaches for league officials.

There's a growing friction between the "haves" and the "have-nots" over such practical matters as club ownership, revenue-sharing and the size of team rosters.

The CFL has no provision for sharing gate revenue, except for an outdated "gate-equalization" formula. Under this formula, Montreal—with its average at-



tendance of 68,000-plus per game—would help Saskatchewan—with its less than 21,000 fans per game. But the formula was drawn up in an era when nobody had a 30,000-seat stadium and no club is obliged to contribute more than \$75,000 into the pot.

The Western clubs are looking for a change in the formula because they feel they will soon be unable to compete against the richer Eastern teams. But there is opposition in the form of Sam Berger, the owner of the Montreal Alouettes. Berger was one of the architects of gate-equalization and is in favor of the concept. But first, Berger wants an opportunity to recoup some of the \$2 million he lost in leaner times.

The gate-equalization problem arose earlier this year when Harold Ballard, the owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs, bought the ailing Hamilton Tiger-Cats. The Western clubs tried to block the sale because Ballard was opposed to gate equalization. Not surprisingly, the clubs opposed to Ballard supported a bid backed by a group of Western Canadian sportsmen. Ballard finally won after a long committee-room hassle.

Reaching a decision on gate equalization and an increase in rosters—each of the nine teams agree that 33-man rosters are too small but the Western clubs say they can't afford bigger rosters—hasn't been any easier.

The Western teams have been complaining that, unless there are changes, the rich teams will continue to dominate the CFL. There's certainly evidence that is the case with Montreal and Edmonton meeting for the Grey Cup in three of the past four years.

But there are also encouraging signs in the other direction. Saskatchewan has always been able to compete on a limited budget and B.C. Lions, next to bankruptcy last season, were tied for first place in the Western Conference.

And the Toronto Argonauts have proven time and again that you can't buy a championship. But the Argos keep trying. This year, they've lured Terry Metcalf

away from the NFL and they're keeping their fingers crossed, hoping Metcalf is a better investment than Anthony Davis proved to be in 1976.

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

**MONTREAL (11-5-0)**—Head coach Marv Levy has gone to the Kansas City Chiefs but he's left behind a powerhouse team which should continue to dominate the CFL.

The beneficiary of Levy's legacy is Joe Scannella, a former Montreal assistant who has spent the past four seasons as special teams coach with the Oakland Raiders. And it's no accident that Levy was a special teams coach with Washington before the Alouettes hired him in 1973.

"With the three downs and all the kicking in the Canadian game, special teams are very important," said Alouette general manager Bob Geary. "That was one of the things in Joe's favor when we started looking for a new head coach."

But Scannella is more than just a special teams coach, he's one of the leading authorities on pro-style passing offenses and he'll introduce that style to Montreal this summer. He's already tabbed dropback passer Sonny Wade (Emory and Henry) as his starting QB, passing up Joe Barnes (Texas Tech). Barnes, who is a scrambler, won seven consecutive games to start last season before he was sidelined with a shoulder injury.

Wade went on to lead the Als to a victory in the Grey Cup and he'll be No. 1 this year while Barnes will battle Larry Lawrence (ex-Oakland Raider) for the No. 2 spot.

The Alouettes are solid at every position. Running back Andy Hopkins will miss the entire season following knee surgery but John O'Leary, who gained 859 yards in an injury-riddled season, is back in good health. Horace Belton (SE Louisiana) did a good job at the end of the last season while rookie Nate Jackson (Tennessee State) is highly touted.

Wide receiver was a problem area last year but Bob Gaddis

(Wyoming) played well late in the season and the Als have two top Canadians in Brock Aynsley and Ian Mofford. Tight end Peter Dalla Riva is a strong blocker, as well as Wade's primary target.

Canadian tackle Barry Randall has retired but the Argos have a replacement in Pat Bonnett, who started last season in Randall's spot. Dan Yochum (Syracuse) is the standout on a capable, but often under-rated offensive line.

Defense has always been strong and Clifton Alapa appears to have provided a complement for fellow Samoan Junior Ah You at defensive end. Canadian defensive tackle Glen Weir is coming off his best season ever after being selected as the outstanding defensive player in the Grey Cup game.

Linebacker Chuck Zapiec is healthy again. He and outside linebacker Carl Crennel won't even be challenged in training camp. Corners Dickie Harris and Vernon Perry are all-stars and Randy Rhino and Dwayne Crump will have a battle royal for one of the safety spots. Larry Uteck (Colorado) was picked up in the off-season from B.C. and Rod Woodward (Idaho) returns from Calgary to give the Als some Canadian depth in the secondary but Tony Proudfoot will miss the first half of the season after being assaulted and breaking his arm in the off-season.

Kicking is solid with Wade the No. 4 punter in the league last season and Sweet again leading the CFL in field goal percentage.

**TORONTO (6-10-0)**—If you could buy a championship, the Argonauts would be taking the Grey Cup home every year.

Over the past decades, the Argos have regularly opened the bank for "superstars" of one description or another. But the strategy has failed to provide Toronto's faithful football fans with a winner—the club hasn't won the Grey Cup since 1952.

Owner Bill Hodgson is hoping to bring the championship back to Toronto this year and he's put up \$1 million to sign NFL star Terry Metcalf. Hodgson was stung two years ago when he

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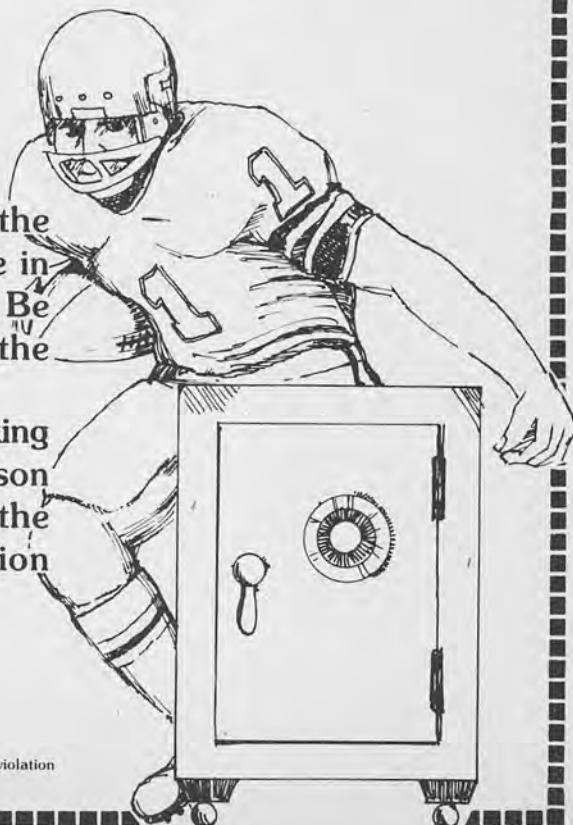
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signed former USC great Anthony Davis to a similar contract but he says there's no comparison.

"Davis wasn't a proven pro," says Hodgson. "We know that Terry is and we know what he can do."

The wider Canadian field, the motion in the backfield and the greater use of running backs as receivers all seem perfectly suited to Metcalf's style. And the Argo front-office is already drooling over the prospect of teaming Metcalf with Canadian Paul Bennett (Missouri) on special teams. Last year, as a rookie, Bennett broke Johnny Rodgers' single-season punt-return record.

The backfield should be solid this year with free agent Mike Harris (Kansas) coming over from Hamilton to play slotback and Canadians Mark Bragagnolo and Neil Lumsden alternating at fullback. Quarterback is still a question mark. Clint (Mad Bomber) Longley has been released and veteran Chuck Ealey will be challenged by two newcomers, Rodney Allison (Texas Tech) and Alvin White, late of the WFL and Oregon State. Ealey has the experience, White has the best arm of the trio and Allison is being touted for his leadership qualities.

The offensive line, rebuilt last season at great expense, is a question mark since All-Canadian Mike Wilson (Georgia) wants out of his contract to join the Cincinnati Bengals. Wilson's college team-mate Joel Parrish and second-year man Gene Clark (UCLA) are the other standouts up front.

The defense, ranked No. 1 in the country last season, is intact and will keep the Argos in a lot of games until Metcalf and company get the hang of Canadian football.

The big change will be at linebacker with a Canadian—Rick Sowieta (Richmond) or Gord Knowlton (Jacksonville St.)—filling one outside spot. Middle linebacker Ray Nettles went to Hamilton and will be replaced by veteran outside LB Rich Lewis or rookie Rick Razzano (Virginia Tech). Veterans Ron Foxx and Larry Brame will fight for other outside spot.

Canadian Jim Corrigan and Wayne Smith and all-star Ecomet Burley (Texas Tech) anchor the defensive line but the club is looking to replace 32-year-old veteran Granny Liggins with a younger body. Eric Harris (Memphis State) was an all-star corner as a rookie and is expected to be even better this year.

Kicking's a problem with Zenon Andrusyshyn moving to Kansas City. A former Hamilton Ticat, Ian Sunter will replace him.

**OTTAWA** (8-8-0)—The Rough Riders didn't have any trouble scoring points in 1977. Then again, neither did the opposition.

That's the situation head coach George Brancato is hoping to correct this season. Brancato's main concern is at linebacker. The Rough Riders went through almost a dozen bodies looking for three capable linebackers last season and the search continues this year.

Fred Pagac, the NFL veteran

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who handled the middle linebacking job at the end of last season, will not return this year. Candidates for the vacant job include Paul Pope (Richmond), Sylvester Boler (Georgia), Steve Dionas (Montana) and Benny Shell (Delaware St.), along with anyone else Brancato picks up between now and playoff time. The Riders went through four middle linebackers last season and Brancato will be happy if he can stick with one man throughout the 1978 season.

Canadians John Glassford and Tim Berryman will fight for one of the outside jobs while all-star Mike Widger (Virginia Tech) should hold onto the other job.

Ottawa's front four is strong with Canadians Jim Piaszkoski and rapidly-improving Brian Hedges flanking import tackle Mike Fanucci (Arizona State) and Canadian Doog Riley.

The secondary could be in trouble, especially if Wonderful Monds (Nebraska) goes through with a threat to play out his option. Rookies Mark Burke (West Virginia) and Dave Miller (Dayton) could help here.

The high-powered offense is directed by Notre Dame grad Tom Clements. Condredge Holloway (Tennessee) has apparently decided it's better to be a back-up in Ottawa than in the NFL and recently signed a new contract with Ottawa.

There's no shortage of talented receivers. The group includes a tight end-slotback Tony Gabriel (Syracuse), a three-time winner of the Schenley Award as the top Canadian player in the league. Jeff Avery, Bill Hatanaka and Ross Clarkson are all young and talented Canadians but the big surprise this year could be Montreal native Dan Fournier (Princeton) who will take time out from his studies as a Rhodes scholar to play pro football.

Last year's rookie sensations Mike Murphy and Richard Holmes (Edinboro State) return to the backfield. Holmes gained 1016 yards and Murphy, a Canadian, added 861 last year. Murphy also caught 48 passes for another 483 yards. Also back is Art Green (Albany State), the CFL's leading rusher in 1976. He played

out his option that year and sat out the 1977 season after failing to find employment in the NFL.

The Offensive line is more than adequate with Jim Coode (Michigan) and Canadian Jeff Turcotte (Colorado) earning all-star mention.

Kicking was much improved last season as Gerry Organ dropped the punting to concentrate on placements, but he has retired. J. T. Hays is a fine replacement. Avery should improve as a punter with more practice.

**HAMILTON (5-11-0)**—Harold Ballard hates to lose and that's the main reason he opened the vault and signed Tiger-Cat running back Jimmy Edwards to a multi-year contract worth more than \$1 million.

"He's the most exciting player in the CFL," said the new owner of the Tiger-Cats. "When I bought this club, I told our fans I wouldn't let Edwards get away."

Unfortunately, Hamilton needs more than Edwards to make the playoffs this year. While Edwards sometimes seems like a one-man team (he led the CFL rushing last season with 1581 yards and also ran back kickoffs and punts), his supporting cast is woefully weak.

Hamilton lost too many top players under the previous management and the club acquired a reputation for pinching pennies and allowing such talented players as Tony Gabriel and Ian Sunter to play out their options and go elsewhere.

Ballard's infusion should stop the flow of disgruntled players but it will take awhile for the Ticats to turn things around.

New head coach Tom Dimitroff is the man responsible for Ottawa's high-powered offense but he doesn't have a Tom Clements to work with in Hamilton. Holdover Jimmy Jones (USC) has a tendency to run too much and the QB job may go to newcomer Steve Marinucci, a small-college whiz from Northern Michigan.

Slotback Mike Harris went to Toronto as a free agent but Dimitroff is counting on draft choice Rocky DiPietro to fill that spot. Dimitroff has also added three



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veteran Canadians, acquiring wide receiver Leif Petterson (Ottawa) and fullback Dave Hadden from Saskatchewan and defensive back Ward Smith (Colorado) from Toronto.

Tight end Lawrie Skolrood is a good blocker but is only an adequate receiver. Mike Wilson, a late-season addition and Larry Butler are first-rate offensive linemen and Dimitroff has dependable Canadians in Henry Waszczuk, Bart Evans and Morris Zubkewych, who is returning to action after two years of inactivity due to a knee injury.

Defensively, the Ticats need help along the line where Mike Samples (Drake) is the only proven commodity. The Ticats looked at 23 linebackers last season and have invited six rookie linebackers to training camp, including Mark Edwards (Dayton); and Bill Murphy (Elon).

Defensive back Dave Shaw has gone to the Minnesota Vikings and Canadian Steve Gelley was traded to Saskatchewan but general manager Bob Shaw feels he's found replacements in Ward Smith and two import rookies, Jeff Ferrelli (Ohio State) and Mike Siganos (Kentucky).

Ken Clark is the best punter in the league while Nick Jambrosic is looking forward to a big season after kicking 23 of 30 field goals last year as a 20-year-old rookie.

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

**EDMONTON (10-6-0)**—When the Eskimos went shopping during the off-season, there was little doubt as to what they were looking for—and they think they've found it in Warren Moon.

Moon is the quarterback who led the University of Washington Huskies to a Pac-8 title and a Rose Bowl win over Michigan. And the Eskimos are hoping Moon will bring the same magic to the already-formidable Eskimos.

"I want to play quarterback," Moon said at a news conference to announce his signing. "I felt that a black quarterback would have a better chance in Canada."

Moon will be pitted against veterans Tom Wilkinson and Bruce Lemmerman, Canadian Bill

Robinson and another rookie, Gary Valbuena. (Tennessee). Head coach Hugh Campbell refuses to speculate on who has the inside track but it appears Moon and one of the veterans will stay with Robinson, who can also play defensive back, as insurance.

The Eskimos are also hoping to find some healthy running backs. Jim Germany (New Mexico) went over 1000 yards as a rookie but was limping by Grey Cup time. And promising Larry Washington is still a question mark after a season cut short by a painful back injury. Howard Strickland is also back but he'll be pressed by rookies Barnabas White (Arkansas) and Ron Jamerson (USC).

The offensive line is intact and is one of the biggest in pro football with 265-pounders Willie Martin and Charlie Turner and 260-pound center Bob Howes.

Slotback Tom Scott, an all-star, moves over from Winnipeg after playing out his option and joins all-star wide receiver George McGowan, who is coming back after missing eight games with injuries in 1977. Another top receiver is former Canadian sprint star John Konihowski.

Middle linebacker Ray Kepley was voted the league's top defensive player last season and he's flanked by Canadians Tom Towns and Dale Potter. Larry Highbaugh and Joe Hollimon are both solid at corner and double as kick-return specialists.

Canadians Dave Fennell and Bill Stevenson return at defensive tackle but there could be some changes at defensive end. Ron Estay and David Boone filled those spots last year but the Eskimos have some good-looking newcomers in Curtis Cruesoe from Grambling and Larry Moore from Angelo State.

Dave Cutler is the best place-kicker in the CFL and accounted for almost half of the Eskimos' CFL-high 412 points last season. Cutler set CFL records for field goals (50) and points (195). His production may go down a bit this year, however, as the CFL has adopted a new field-goal rule—on missed attempts, the ball will go back out to the original line of scrimmage.

The Eskimos also have one of the best punters in the CFL, 19-year-old Hank Ilesic. Ilesic was still in high school when he averaged 45.1 yards a kick.

**WINNIPEG (10-6-0)**—The Blue Bombers raised some eyebrows during the off-season when they fired head coach Bud Riley. After all, Riley had guided the Blue Bombers to three winning seasons and three consecutive berths.

But Riley was sent packing because he couldn't get the Bombers' aerial circus past the Western Conference semi-finals.

That's the task which faces Ray Jauch, who returns to the coaching ranks after a year in the Edmonton Eskimos' front office. Jauch has already made his presence felt—he allowed all-star slotback Tom Scott (67 catches for 1079 yards in 1977) to slip away to Edmonton because the talented pass receiver didn't fit in his plans.

Under Riley, the Bombers used a double slotback system and no tight end. Jauch plans to fill Scott's spot with a Canadian tight end (probably Leo Ezerins from Whitworth College) and he will use the extra import to beef up his offensive line.

When he was building the Eskimos in the early 1970s, Jauch favored big offensive linemen and he plans to continue the same trend in Winnipeg. He's recruited a number of defensive linemen who will work out on both sides of the line, including Billy Howard (Alcorn) and Mark Lewis, who passed up his final year at Arkansas to join the Bombers.

Quarterbacks Ralph Brock and Harry Knight won't have any competition in training camp and Jim Washington, the leading rusher in the West with 1262 yards last season, also seems assured of a job. But fullback Richard Crump will have competition from two hard-nosed rookies, Mike Maguire (South Dakota) and Henry Hynoski (Temple). Gord Patterson, No. 2 in the CFL in receptions last season, will stay at one slot with Mark McDonald outside.

Elton Brown will move inside permanently this season and

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Jauch is in the market for some defensive ends. Lewis and Howard will probably get a look here, as will rookies Ted Arndt (Bemidji State) and Ray Allred (Idaho State). Cornerback Merv Walker may be a holdout—he wants to play in the East but the rest of the secondary is sound with Brian Herosian and Vince Phason stacking up against the best in the league. Best of the newcomers is Reggie Pierson (Oklahoma State).

Harry Walters (Maryland) will be assured of the middle linebacking job but only Canadian Bob Toogood can count on a job outside.

Placekicker Bernie Ruoff was the only CFL kicker to connect on less than 50 per cent of his field goal attempts last season but he also punts and is one of only three surviving two-way kickers in the league. Jauch may try to get him some help.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA (10-6-0)**—The Lions believe in keeping things in the family and the result is one of the speediest backfields in pro football.

The Lions' prize acquisition in the off-season was Florida State running back Larry Key, a 10th-round draft choice of the Green Bay Packers. The Lions are convinced Key will supply them with a much-needed breakaway threat and also plan to use him on as a kick-return specialist alongside last year's rookie of the year, Leon Bright.

Bright, incidentally, represents the family ties which helped bring Key to Canada. A Florida State dropout, Bright is Key's cousin.

The Lions were the big surprise in the CFL last season, leading the Western Conference for most of the season before losing to Edmonton in the playoffs. The Lions should come down to earth this season but they'll be good enough to grab the third and final playoff berth.

Coach Vic Rapp enticed former Green Bay QB Jerry Tagge out of retirement last season and Tagge was selected as the most outstanding player in the West. He'll be back, along with another NFL retread, Garry Keithley,

and newcomer Frank Paopao (Long Beach State). Key will get one running back spot after the retirement of Mike Strickland while a couple of rookies, Calvin Culliver (Alabama) and Bill Deutsch will be at fullback. Bright and Canadian Al Charuk will provide the outside speed while veteran Jim Young will line up inside at slotback.

Canadian Al Wilson (Montana) was selected as the outstanding offensive lineman in the CFL last season while tackle Layne McDowell and Canadian guard John Blain (San Jose State) are other standouts on the offensive line. The Lions are also hoping Canadian tackle John Blake (San Jose State) will join them before the year is out. Blake was signed by the Philadelphia Eagles but would be welcome in B.C. if he doesn't make the grade. The Lions also had to wait for Blake's former teammate Blain last season—Blain tried out with New Orleans before coming home.

Another loss on offense is former Rose Bowl hero John Sciarra, the CFL's rookie of the year in 1976. Sciarra was plagued by injuries which prevented him from playing QB and last year he was beat out at wide receiver by Bright. He was released earlier this year.

The secondary is the strong point on defense with Joe Fourqurean, Mike Fink, Grady Cavness, Doug Carlson and newly-acquired Canadian John Beaton. Glen Jackson is among the finest young outside linebackers in the league but the Lions need help in the middle.

Rocky Long has retired but his main contribution was on special teams and the Lions are loaded with Larry Key and Leon Bright.

End Jesse O'Neal (Grambling) and Canadian Frank Landy are the standouts up front but second-year Canadian Doug Seymour (Missouri) should come into his own this year.

Lui Passaglia will continue to handle all the kicking. He was second to Dave Cutler in total points and field goals and was also the top punter in the West last season.

**SASKATCHEWAN** (8-8-0)—An era seems to be ending in Regina where the Saskatchewan Roughriders missed the playoffs last season for the first time since 1961.

The Saskatchewan QB during all that time has been Ron Lancaster. The playing-coach will be back for his 19th CFL season but it's obvious even Lancaster is starting to think about retirement.

"I'm just playing it one year at a time but I think this may be it," admitted Lancaster. Lancaster might have packed it in last season but there's speculation he wanted to go out a winner. He was sitting on the sidelines with a knee injury last season when the Riders were eliminated from the playoffs but says he's recovered fully.

The Riders have already started to look beyond the Lancaster era. They signed highly-touted Larry Dick (Maryland) and plan to give the rookie plenty of work this season.

Saskatchewan threw the ball more than any other CFL team last season. Running back Molly McGee was the top receiver in the CFL while wide receiver Steve Mazurak was sixth. This year, head coach Jim Eddy hopes to bolster the running game, which has been anemic since George Reed, the all-time CFL rushing leader, retired three years ago. Courtney Snyder, a tailback from Indiana, is expected to provide an outside threat with McGee working inside with Canadian Steve Molnar.

The offensive line averages six years of experience and may be bolstered further by newcomer Roger Bernhardt, who has four years of experience with the New York Jets. The only question mark is at tight end with Canadian Bob Richardson hoping to return east.

All-star Roger Goree is the top defensive performer at outside linebacker but the Riders will take a long look at rookie Bill Muxlow (Colorado) in the middle.

Defensive end Bill Baker had an off-year in 1977 and Eddy will attempt to improve the Riders' pass rush this season. Tim Roth

is set at one tackle spot but veteran end George Wells will be challenged by newcomers Ed Johnson (SMU), Bernard Winters (Syracuse) and Jim (Big, Bad) Wolf, late of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The secondary is superb with Paul Williams (Cal) and Steve Dennis (Grambling) at the corners, all-star Canadian Ken McEachern at strong safety and newly-acquired Steve Gelley at rover.

Kicking is only adequate with Bob Macoritti handling the placements and punts.

**CALGARY** (4-12-0)—The Stampeders won the Grey Cup in 1971 and haven't been in the playoffs since.

This isn't the year their luck changes.

Jack Gotta, in the second year of a rebuilding program, is stressing speed this year but there are simply too many question marks, starting at quarterback and continuing through the roster. The Stampeders did field a respectable defensive team last season but scored fewer points than any other team in the CFL.

QBs John Hufnagel (Penn State) and Matt Reed (WFL-Grambling) both return but Gotta is high on two rookies Joe Davis, a dropback passer from San Diego State and Dean Blevins, a scrambler from Oklahoma. Whoever winds up with the job will have a one excellent running back in Willie Burden (1032 yards last season) and one excellent receiver in Canadian Tom Forzani (Utah State).

The offense ends there.

Gotta has an outstanding Canadian rookie in guard Bob Lubig (Montana State) and tackle Lloyd Fairbanks (Brigham Young) is back after knee surgery but veteran center Basil Bark has retired.

The best of the speedy newcomers may be wide receiver Randall Teate a dropout from Texas A and M. and Gotta was also impressed with Tim Gillespie, a cut of the Denver Broncos who had a brief trial with the Stamps last season.

Linebackers Anthony Dickerson (SMU) and Mel McGowan

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(Arizona) have 4.6 speed and will be the people to beat at outside linebacker while Ollie Bakken returns in the middle.

The defensive line may need rebuilding with veteran John Helton asking to be traded. The Stamps will miss veteran Canadian Rod Woodward in the secondary but Al Burleson (Washington) is all-star material and Ray Odums, a basketball star at Alabama, is constantly improving.

Cyril McFall is an excellent placekicker but the Stampede's offense gives him few opportunities to practice his trade.

### NEW AMERICAN IMPORTS MONTREAL ALOUETTES 1977 CANADIAN CHAMPIONS beat Edmonton 41-6 for Grey Cup.

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

#### MONTREAL Alouettes

Larry Bailey, DE, Pacific; Phil Boyce, WR, Azusa Pacific; Dave Butterfield, DB, Nebraska; Bill Carroll, WR, East Texas St.; Freddie Douglas, WR, Arkansas; Eleteice Siatoo, DT, Long Beach St.; Nate Jackson, RB, Tennessee St.; Randy Johnson, DB, Southern Utah; Larry Lawrence, QB, Oakland Raiders; John Maxwell, OT, Boston College; John Olenchak, LB, Stanford; Doug Payton, OT, Colorado; Bob Rule, LB, SW Louisiana; Ken Starch, RB, Wisconsin; John Taylor, OT, Pacific; Robert Trudeau, RB, Cal Poly; Cornelius Walker, DE, Rice; Greg Jorgensen, G, Nebraska.

#### TORONTO Argonauts

Rodney Allison, QB, Texas Tech; Dave Almeida, DB, Boston College; Bill Bowerman, QB, New Mexico St.; Frank DeStefano, OG, Duke; Greg Dubinetz, OG, Yale-WFL; Chez Evans, DT, Oklahoma; Bob Farnham, WR, Brown; Carlos Henderson, WR, East Michigan; Terry Metcalf, RB, St. Louis Cardinals; Tommy Mills, DB, West Texas St.; Dale Molder, DB, Howard Payne; Mike Obrovac, DT, Bowling Green; Rich Razzano, LB, Virginia Tech; Phil Rogers, RB, Virginia Tech; Brian Ruff, LB, Citadel; Alan Slammer, DT, East Michigan; Charles Smith, RB, Morgan St.; Forry Smith, WR, Iowa St.; Roland Smith, DB, Arkansas; Joe Thompson, RB, Augustana; Alvin White, QB, Oregon St.; Charles Williams, WR, Memphis St.

#### OTTAWA Rough Riders

Larry Nelson, WR, Howard Payne; Jim Szczerba, DT, Ithaca; Paul Pope, LB, Richmond; Mark Burke, DB, West Virginia; Dave Miller, DB, Dayton; Sylvester Boler, LB, Georgia; Ned Deane, OG, Massachusetts; Steve Dionas, LB, Montana; Rudy Bryant, South Carolina St.; Benny Shell, LB, Delaware St.; John Anderson, DE, Alcorn; Jim Schnietz, OT, (CFL)-Missouri.

#### HAMILTON Tiger-Cats

Danny Bass, OG, Elon; Mark Cahill, QB, Las Vegas; Steve Davis, WR, Georgia; Steve Cockerham, LB, Akron; Ed Dimitry, OT, Dayton; Glen Deadman, DE, Kent St.; Mark Edwards, LB, Dayton; Jeff Ferrelli, DB, Ohio St.; Joe Knoth,

DB, Kean; Ernest Madison, DB, East Carolina; Bill Murphy, LB, Elon; Steve Marinucci, QB, East Michigan; Ken Scarpa, DB, Seton Hall; Mike Sigani, DB, Kentucky; Dennis Thurman, DB, Gardner-Webb; Greg Thurmond, WR, Akron; John Tuttle, WR, Kansas; Tom Wanner, DB, Dayton; George Woodhouse, RB, Federal St.

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

#### SASKATCHEWAN Roughriders

Roger Bernhardt, OG, New York Jets; Larry Dick, QB, Maryland; Ed Johnson, DE, SMU; Bob Jones, DB, Atlanta Falcons; Eary Jones, DT, Memphis St.; Bill Muxlow, LB, Colorado; Joe Prendergast, OG, Boston College; Courtney Snyder, RB, Indiana; I. V. Wilson, DT, Tulsa; Harold Woods, DB, West Virginia; James Wolf, DE, Pittsburgh Steelers; Ken Washington, QB, North Texas St.; Bernard Winters, DE, Syracuse.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA Lions

Rodney Bagley, LB, LSU; Larry Bates, RB, Miami; Greg Blankenship, LB, Hayward; Calvin Culliver, RB, Alabama; Bill Deutsch, RB, North Dakota; Ken Downing, DB, Missouri; Gerry Evans, OT, Iowa St.; Rich Glover, DE, Nebraska; Harry Holt, RB, Arizona; Jim Lohmann, OG, El Paso; Mike Nealy, WR, Santa Clara; Bill Olds, RB, Nebraska; Frank Oliver, DB, Kentucky; Joe Paopao, QB, Long Beach St.; Carl Pennington, LB, Kansas St.; Bill Rice, DT, Brigham Young; Pat Richardson, LB, Hawaii; Pete Rome, DB, Miami; Lorenzo Turner, LB, Oklahoma; Billy Joe Winchester, DT, Arizona; Larry Key, RB, Florida St.

#### WINNIPEG Blue Bombers

Ray Allred, DT, Idaho St.; Ted Arndt, DT, Bemidji St.; Tim Allen, OG, Louisville; Rich Eccles, OT, Memphis St.; Leo Ezerins, TE, Whitworth; John Green, TE, Doane; Henry Hynoski, RB, Temple; Glen Jones, LB, VMI; Mark Lewis, DT, Arkansas; Mike Maguire, RB, South Dakota; Mike Northington, DB, Purdue; Reggie Pierson, DB, Oklahoma St.; Rich Rives, WR, Memphis St.; Ken Smith, WR, Pine Bluff; Ara Watley, OT, San Diego St.; Archie Gray, WR, Wyoming; Mickey Malham, LB, Arkansas St.; Art Meadowcroft, OT, Minnesota; Steve Okoniewski, DT, Montana; Marty Smith, DT, Louisville; Mike Holmes, WR, Texas Southern; Billy Howard, DT, Alcorn A&M; Buddy Hardeman, DB, Iowa St.

#### CALGARY Stampeders

Dean Blevins, QB, Oklahoma; Joe Davis, QB, San Diego St.; Anthony Dickerson, LB, SMU; Tim Gillespie, WR, Denver Broncos; Bob Lubig, OG, Montana St.; Mel McGowan, LB, N.Y. Giants; Don Malinosky, OT, Michigan St.; Randall Teate, WR, Texas A&M; Vernon Wells, WR, Kansas City Chiefs.

#### EDMONTON Eskimos

James Armstead, WR, Langston; Juan Campbell, WR, Oregon St.; Curtis Cruetsoe, DE, Grambling; Luther Dixon, OG, South Carolina St.; Rich Dundas, LB, Whitworth; David Green, OT, New Mexico; Ron Jamerson, RB, Southern Cal; Gary Johnson, DE, Willamette; Brian Kelly, WR, Washington St.; Roy Knight, WR, Washington; Gary Marshall, DB, San Diego St.; Warren Moon, QB, Washington; Larry Moore, DE, Angelo St.; Joel Mullins, OT, Arkansas St.; Horace Perkins, DB, Colorado; Tom Poe, LB, Washington St.; Tom Scott, WR, Winnipeg (CFL)-Washington; Gary Valbuena, QB, Tennessee; Barnabas White, RB, Arkansas.

# OFFICIAL 1977 NFC and AFC RECORDS

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## N F C SCORING

### RECORDS

Points—176, Paul Hornung, G.B. (1960)  
TD's—22, Gale Sayers, Chicago (1965)  
22, Chuck Foreman, Minnesota (1975)  
FG's—33, Chester Marcol, Green Bay (1972)  
XP—56, Danny Villanueva, Dallas (1966)

	Td.	Td.	XP	FG	FGA	Pts.
R.	P.					
Payton, W., Chi.	14	2	0	0	0	96
Herrera, Dall.	0	0	39	18	29	93
Septien, L.A.	0	0	32	18	30	86
Moseley, Wash.	0	0	19	21	37	82
Dorsett, Dall.	12	1	0	0	0	78
Thomas, B., Chi.	0	0	27	14	27	69
Danelo, N.Y.G.	0	0	19	14	23	61
Bakken, St.L.	0	0	35	7	16	56
Childs, N.O.	0	9	0	0	0	54
Foreman, Minn.	6	3	0	0	0	54
McCutcheon, L.A.	7	2	0	0	0	54
Morris, St.L.	8	1	0	0	0	54
White, Minn.	0	9	0	0	0	54
Williams, S.F.	7	2	0	0	0	54
Werschling, S.F.	0	0	23	10	17	53
Marcol, G.B.	0	0	11	13	21	50
Cox, Minn.	0	0	25	8	17	49
Mike-Mayer, N., Atl.-Phil.	0	0	14	10	22	44
Szaro, N.O.	0	0	29	5	12	44
Mike Mayer, S., Det.	0	0	19	8	19	43
Carmichael, Phil.	0	7	0	0	0	42
Jackson, W., S.F.	7	0	0	0	0	42
Muncie, N.O.	6	1	0	0	0	42
Cappelletti, L.A.	5	1	0	0	0	36
Jackson, H., L.A.	0	6	0	0	0	36
Metcalfe, St.L.	4	2	0	0	0	36
Stanback, Atl.	6	0	0	0	0	36
Steinfurt, Atl.	0	0	13	6	11	31
Bussey, Det.	4	1	0	0	0	30
Fugett, Wash.	0	5	0	0	0	30
Gray, St.L.	0	5	0	0	0	30
Jaworski, Phil.	5	0	0	0	0	30
Manning, N.O.	5	0	0	0	0	30
Pearson, P., Dall.	1	4	0	0	0	30
Thomas, M., Wash.	3	2	0	0	0	30
Washington, G., S.F.	0	5	0	0	0	30
Muhlmann, Phil.	0	0	17	3	8	26
Hammond, N.Y.G.	4	0	0	0	0	24
Jenkins, Atl.	0	4	0	0	0	24
Kane, Det.	4	0	0	0	0	24
Latta, Chi.	0	4	0	0	0	24
Newhouse, Dall.	3	1	0	0	0	24
Smith, Phil.	0	4	0	0	0	24
Leavitt, T.B.	0	0	5	5	10	20
DuPree, Dall.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Galbreath, N.O.	3	0	0	0	0	18
Grant, Wash.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Harris, St.L.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Jones, St.L.	3	0	0	0	0	18
Krepfle, Phil.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Lusk, Phil.	2	1	0	0	0	18
McClanahan, Minn.	1	2	0	0	0	18
Montgomery, Phil.	3	0	0	0	0	18
Nelson, L.A.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Odum, G.B.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Owens, T.B.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Richards, Dall.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Robinson, N.Y.G.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Saldi, Dall.	1	2	0	0	0	18
Scott, Chi.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Smith, G.B.	2	1	0	0	0	18
Spencer, N.Y.G.	3	0	0	0	0	18
Staubach, Dall.	3	0	0	0	0	18
Tyler, L.A.	3	0	0	0	0	18
Green, T.B.	0	0	5	4	7	17
Cain, St.L.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Carter, T.B.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Haden, L.A.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Harrell, G.B.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Hill, Det.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Jodat, L.A.	1	1	0	0	0	12
Johnson, S., Minn.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Kotar, N.Y.G.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Latin, St.L.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Musso, Chi.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Otis, St.L.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Payton, E., Det.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Pearson, D., Dall.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Pisarcik, N.Y.G.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Rashad, Minn.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Rather, Chi.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Riggins, Wash.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Shirk, N.Y.G.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Sullivan, Phil.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Thompson, Det.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Tucker, Minn.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Wood, T.B.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Avellini, Chi.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Baldassin, S.F.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Baschnagel, Chi.	0	0	0	0	0	6
Beil, T.B.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Betterson, Phil.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Blair, Minn.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Blue, Det.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Brinson, Dall.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Bryant, N.Y.G.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Buchanan, G.B.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Bugs, Wash.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Byas, Atl.	1	0	0	0	0	6

	Td.	Td.	XP	FG	FGA	Pts.
R.	P.					
Chapman, N.O.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Csonka, N.Y.G.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Davis, A., T.B.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Davis, C., St.L.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Dennison, Dall.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Dobler, St.L.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Earl, Chi.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Eley, Atl.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Ferrell, S.F.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Francis, Atl.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Gilliam, N.O.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Grooms, N.O.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Harmon, Wash.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Harrison, S.F.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Henderson, Dall.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Hill, C., Wash.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Hill, J.D., Det.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Hogan, Phil.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Hubbard, Det.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Hunter, Atl.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Jarvis, Det.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Johnson, B., Dall.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Johnson, G., T.B.	1	0	0	0	0	6
King, Det.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Laidlaw, Dall.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Martin, N.Y.G.	0	1	0	0	0	6
McCrory, Atl.	0	1	0	0	0	6
McGeorge, G.B.	0	1	0	0	0	6
McIntyre, Atl.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Merlo, N.O.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Middleton, G.B.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Moorehead, N.Y.G.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Myers, N.O.	1	0	0	0	0	6
O'Neil, Det.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Ortega, Atl.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Payne, G.B.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Pennywell, Atl.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Phillips, L.A.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Pinckney, Det.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Plunkett, S.F.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Pollard, N.O.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Ryckman, Atl.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Sanders, Det.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Scales, L.A.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Schubert, Chi.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Seal, S.F.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Sensibaugh, St.L.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Smith, St.L.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Thaxton, N.O.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Theismann, Wash.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Thompson, Atl.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Torkelson, G.B.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Voight, Minn.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Waddy, L.A.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Washington, T.B.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Waters, Dall.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Whitehurst, G.B.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Williams, S.F.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Wright, Minn.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Young, L.A.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Youngblood, L.A.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Wittum, S.F.	0	0	2	1	2	5
Johannson, Phil.	0	0	1	1	4	4

Safeties: English, Det.; Eller, Minn.; Team, N.O.

## RUSHING

(10 or more Yards)

### RECORDS

Most—339, Walter Payton, Chicago (1977)  
Most Yds.—1863, Jim Brown, Cleveland (1963)  
Most TD's—19, Jim Taylor, G.B. (1962)

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.
Payton, Chi.	339	1852	5.5	73	14
McCutcheon, L.A.	294	1238	4.2	48	7
Foreman, Minn.	270	1112	4.1	51	6
Dorsett, Dall.	208	1007	4.8	84t	12
Williams, S.F.	268	931	3.5	40	7
Stanback, Atl.	247	873	3.5	35	6
Muncie, N.O.	201	811	4.0	36	6
Thomas, Wash.	228	806	3.5	31	3
Jackson, S.F.	179	780	4.4	80	7
Metcalfe, St.L.	149	739	5.0	62t	4
Newhouse, Dall.	180	721	4.0	29	3
Morris, St.L.	165	661	4.0	35	8
Galbreath, N.O.	168	644	3.8	26	3
Cappelletti, L.A.	178	598	3.4	15	5
Hammond, N.Y.G.	154	577	3.7	30	3
Smith, G.B.	166	554	3.3	11	2
Hogan, Phil.	155	546	3.5	19	0
King, Det.	155	521	3.4	35	1
Kotar, N.Y.G.	132	480	3.6	32	2
Thompson, Atl.	132	478	3.6	22	1
Csonka, N.Y.G.	134	464	3.5	15	1
Harper, Chi.	120	457	3.8	19	0
Bell, T.B.	148	436	2.9	20	1
Kane, Det.	124	421	3.4	35	4
Sullivan, Phil.	125	363	2.9	14	0
Pearson, P., Dall.	89	341	3.8	22	1
Bussey, Det.	85	338	4.0	31	4
Otis, St.L.	99	334	3.4	25t	2
McClanahan, Minn.	95	324	3.4	18	1
Tyler, L.A.	61	317	5.2	44t	3
Harmon, Wash.	94	310	3.3	21	0
Torkelson, G.B.	103	309	3.0	29	1
Davis, T.B.	95	297	3.1	35	1
DuBoise, T.B.	71	284	4.0	13	0
Eley, Atl.	97	273	2.8	16	1
Strachan, N.O.	55	271	4.9	18	0
Manning, N.O.	39	270	6.9	27	5
Hill, Wash.	69	257	3.7	34	0
Earl, Chi.	56	233	4.2	34	1
Betterson, Phil.	62	233	3.8	17	1
Lusk, Phil.	52	229	4.4	70t	2
Johnson, Minn.	55	217	3.9	26	2
Latin, St.L.	56	208	3.7	17	2

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	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.
Simpson, G.B.	60	204	3.4	40	0
Riggins, Wash.	68	203	3.0	12	0
Williams, T.B.	63	198	3.1	14	0
Spencer, N.Y.G.	62	184	3.0	9	3
Phillips, L.A.	37	183	4.9	25	1
Montgomery, Phil.	45	183	4.1	27t	2
Staubach, Dall.	51	171	3.4	33	3
Ferrell, S.F.	41	160	3.9	12	1
Miller, Minn.	46	152	3.3	14	0
Hubbard, Det.	38	150	3.9	16	1
Theisman, Wash.	29	149	5.1	14	1
Harrell, G.B.	60	140	2.3	9	1
Musso, Chi.	37	132	3.6	13	2
Jaworski, Phil.	40	127	3.2	44	5
Carter, T.B.	59	117	2.0	20	2
Avellini, Chi.	37	109	2.9	21	1
Haden, L.A.	29	106	3.7	23	2
Hofer, S.F.	34	106	3.1	10	0
Esposito, Atl.	34	101	3.0	23	0
Landry, Det.	25	99	4.0	13	0
Middleton, G.B.	35	97	2.8	16	0
Thompson, Det.	31	91	2.9	16t	1
Jones, St.L.	24	77	3.2	18	3
Watkins, N.Y.G.	19	71	3.7	9	0
Plunkett, S.F.	28	71	2.5	9	1
Hunter, Atl.	28	70	2.5	18	1
McIntyre, Atl.	13	65	5.0	11	0
Bell, N.Y.G.	16	63	3.9	13	0
Danielson, Det.	7	62	8.9	16	0
Dennison, Dall.	12	60	5.0	17	1
Pisarcik, N.Y.G.	27	57	2.1	14	2
Whitehurst, G.B.	14	55	3.9	19	1
Culbreath, G.B.	12	53	4.4	18	0
Bryant, L.A.	6	42	7.0	24	0
Heedberg, T.B.	9	35	3.9	12	0
Waddy, L.A.	2	34	17.0	30	0
Nelson, L.A.	3	31	10.3	18	0
Lemaster, Phil.	1	30	30.0	30	1
Brinson, Dall.	8	28	3.5	20t	1
Blount, T.B.	5	26	5.2	12	0
Dickey, G.B.	5	24	4.8	10	0
Douglass, N.O.	2	23	11.5	20	0
Jones, N.O.	8	23	2.9	8	0
Pearson, D., Dall.	2	22	11.0	11	0
Ragsdale, T.B.	3	21	7.0	15	0
Bull, S.F.	5	20	4.0	8	0
Best, Chi.	6	20	3.3	6	0
Kilmer, Wash.	10	20	2.0	12	0
Wehrli, St.L.	1	19	19.0	19	0
Hart, St.L.	11	18	1.6	13	0
Jodat, L.A.	5	15	3.0	5	1
Harrison, S.F.	6	15	2.5	15	0
Kellar, Minn.	7	15	2.1	9	0
Laddlaw, Dall.	9	15	1.7	8	0
Smith, Phil.	2	13	6.5	8	0
Payton, E., Det.	4	13	3.3	14	0
Bartkowski, Atl.	18	13	0.7	8	0
Scott, N.O.	4	11	2.8	9	0
Hill, Det.	4	10	2.5	14	0
Huff, T.B.	8	10	1.3	2	0

### PASS RECEIVING

(3 or more—less if TD)

#### RECORDS

Most caught—93, John Morris, Chicago (1964)  
Most Yds.—1495, Elroy Hirsch, L.A. (1951)  
Most pass TD's—17, Don Hutson, G.B. (1942)  
17, Elroy Hirsch, L.A. (1951)

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.
Rashad, Minn.	51	681	13.4	48t	2
Scott, Chi.	50	809	16.2	72t	3
Pearson, D., Dall.	48	870	18.1	67	2
Jackson, L.A.	48	666	13.9	58	6
Carmichael, Phil.	46	665	14.5	50t	7
Pearson, P., Dall.	46	535	11.6	36t	4
White, Minn.	41	760	18.5	69t	9
Culbreath, N.O.	41	265	6.5	30	0
Harris, St.L.	40	547	13.7	38t	3
King, Det.	40	238	6.0	30	0
Jenkins, Atl.	39	677	17.4	73t	4
Gray, St.L.	38	782	20.6	69t	5
Foreman, Minn.	38	308	8.1	31t	3

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.
Smith, G.B.	37	340	9.2	42	1
Fugett, Wash.	36	631	17.5	52	5
Owens, T.B.	34	655	19.3	67t	3
Grant, Wash.	34	480	14.1	59t	3
Metcalfe, St.L.	34	403	11.9	68t	2
McClanahan, Minn.	34	276	8.1	23	2
Childs, N.O.	33	518	15.7	59t	9
Smith, Phil.	33	464	14.1	32	4
Washington, S.F.	32	638	19.9	47	5
Hill, Det.	32	465	14.5	61	2
Herrmann, N.O.	32	408	12.8	39	0
Nelson, L.A.	31	401	12.9	46	3
Stanback, Atl.	30	261	8.7	36	0
Dorsett, Dall.	29	273	9.4	23	1
Jarvis, Det.	28	353	12.6	28	1
DuPree, Dall.	28	347	12.4	23	3
Thomas, Wash.	28	245	8.8	25	2
Cappelletti, L.A.	28	228	8.1	25t	1
Odum, G.B.	27	549	20.3	95t	3
Krepfle, Phil.	27	530	19.6	55t	3
Payton, W., Chi.	27	269	10.0	75t	0
Miller, Minn.	27	246	9.1	25	0
Francis, Atl.	26	390	15.0	32	1
Buggs, Wash.	26	341	13.1	45	1
Latta, Chi.	26	335	12.9	37t	4
Sullivan, Phil.	26	223	8.6	30	2
Cain, St.L.	25	328	13.1	38	2
McCutcheon, L.A.	25	274	11.0	30	2
Hill, Det.	24	247	10.3	23t	1
Morris, St.L.	24	222	9.3	34	1
Waddy, L.A.	23	355	15.4	42	1
Robinson, N.Y.G.	22	422	19.2	80t	3
Smith, G.B.	22	357	16.2	41	0
Jackson, S.F.	22	169	7.7	24	0
Muncie, N.O.	21	248	11.8	35t	1
Perkins, N.Y.G.	20	279	14.0	54	0
Voigt, Minn.	20	212	10.6	24	1
Williams, S.F.	20	175	9.0	17	2
Mitchell, S.F.	19	226	11.9	31	0
Harrell, G.B.	19	194	10.2	48	0
Harper, Chi.	19	142	7.5	34	0
Hammond, N.Y.G.	19	136	7.2	23	0
Hogan, Phil.	19	118	6.2	51t	1
Kane, Det.	18	186	10.3	20	0
Hill, Wash.	18	154	8.6	23	1
Rather, Chi.	17	294	17.3	42t	2
Richards, Dall.	17	225	13.2	50t	3
Mitchell, Atl.	17	178	10.5	17	0
McGeorge, G.B.	17	142	8.4	18	1
Shirk, N.Y.G.	16	280	17.5	64	2
Newhouse, Dall.	16	106	6.6	41	1
Harrison, S.F.	15	217	14.5	46	1
Tucker, N.Y.G.-Minn.	15	200	13.3	29	2
Hagins, T.B.	15	196	13.1	56	0
Kotar, N.Y.G.	15	73	4.9	13	0
Thaxton, N.O.	14	211	15.1	41	1
Sanders, Det.	14	170	12.1	24	1
Taylor, Wash.	14	158	11.3	19	0
Harmon, Wash.	14	119	8.5	22	1
Seal, S.F.	13	230	17.7	47t	1
McKay, T.B.	12	164	13.7	26	0
Moorehead, N.Y.G.	12	143	11.9	20	1
Johnson, Dall.	12	135	11.3	22t	1
Jones, St.L.	12	66	5.5	16	0
Thompson, Atl.	12	56	4.7	9	0
Gilliam, N.O.	11	133	12.1	23	1
Bussey, Det.	11	116	10.5	39	1
Saldi, Dall.	11	108	9.8	23	2
Torkelson, G.B.	11	107	9.7	14	0
DuBoise, T.B.	11	89	8.1	17	0
Bell, T.B.	11	88	8.0	23	0
Vataha, G.B.	10	109	10.9	20	0
Williams, T.B.	10	67	6.7	15	0
Carter, T.B.	10	65	6.5	19	0
Jessie, L.A.	9	139	15.4	21	0
Nefziger, T.B.	9	119	13.2	38	0
Latin, St.L.	9	89	9.9	20	0
Eley, Atl.	9	60	6.7	14	0
Schubert, Chi.	8	119	14.9	32	0
Davis, T.B.	8	91	11.4	30	0
Blue, Det.	8	90	11.3	21	1
Marshall, N.Y.G.	7	178	25.4	82	0
Payne, G.B.	7	99	14.1	45	1
Riggins, Wash.	7	95	13.6	53t	2
Thompson, Det.	7	42	6.0	18	0

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## RECORDS

Most completions—288, Sonny Jurgensen, Washington (1967)

Most TD's.—36, Y. A. Tittle, Giants (1963)

Most Yds.—3747, Sonny Jurgensen, Washington (1967)

Longest for TD.—99 yards, Frank Filchock, Washington, to Andy Farkas (1939); George Izo, Washington to Bobby Mitchell (1963); Carl Sweetan, Detroit, to Pat Studstill (1966); Sonny Jurgensen, Washington, to Gerry Allen (1968).

## PASSING

## NFC INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS

	Atts.	Comp.	Pct.	Yds.	Avg.	Tds.	Pct.	Long	Int.	Pct.
Staubach, Dall.	361	210	58.2	2620	7.26	18	5.0	67	9	2.5
Haden, L.A.	216	122	56.5	1551	7.18	11	5.1	58	6	2.8
Tarkenton, Minn.	258	155	60.1	1734	6.72	9	3.5	59t	14	5.4
Landry, Det.	240	135	56.3	1359	5.66	6	2.5	39	7	2.9
Manning, N.O.	205	113	55.1	1284	6.26	8	3.9	59t	9	4.4
Kilmer, Wash.	201	99	49.3	1187	5.91	8	4.0	59t	7	3.5
Hart, St.L.	355	186	52.4	2542	7.16	13	3.7	69t	20	5.6
Plunkett, S.F.	248	128	51.6	1693	6.83	9	3.6	47t	14	5.6
Avellini, Chi.	293	154	52.6	2004	6.84	11	3.8	75t	18	6.1
Jaworski, Phil.	346	166	48.0	2183	6.31	18	5.2	55t	21	6.1
Theismann, Wash.	182	84	46.2	1097	6.03	7	3.8	52	9	4.9
Dickey, G.B.	220	113	51.4	1346	6.12	5	2.3	95t	14	6.4
Pisarcik, N.Y.G.	241	103	42.7	1346	5.59	4	1.7	82	14	5.8

## NON-QUALIFIERS

Ferragamo, L.A.	15	9	60.0	83	5.53	2	13.3	17t	0	0.0
Kramer, Minn.	57	30	52.6	425	7.46	5	8.8	69t	4	7.0
Lee, Minn.	72	42	58.3	522	7.25	4	5.6	48t	4	5.6
Hunter, Atl.	151	70	46.4	898	5.95	2	1.3	49t	3	2.0
Namath, L.A.	107	50	46.7	606	5.66	3	2.8	42	5	4.7
Whitehurst, G.B.	105	50	47.6	634	6.04	1	1.0	48	7	6.7
Bartkowski, Atl.	136	64	47.1	796	5.85	5	3.7	73t	13	9.6
Danielson, Det.	100	42	42.0	445	4.45	1	1.0	61	5	5.0
Scott, N.O.	82	36	43.9	516	6.29	3	3.7	53t	8	9.8
Huff, T.B.	138	67	48.6	889	6.44	3	2.2	67t	13	9.4
Golsteyn, N.Y.G.	70	31	44.3	416	5.94	2	2.9	47	8	11.4
Douglass, N.O.	31	16	51.6	130	4.19	1	3.2	31	3	9.7
Blount, T.B.	89	37	41.6	522	5.87	0	0.0	56	7	7.9
White, Dall.	10	4	40.0	35	3.50	0	0.0	12	1	10.0
Bull, S.F.	24	7	29.2	89	3.71	0	0.0	26	2	8.3
Reed, Det.	40	13	32.5	150	3.75	0	0.0	26	4	10.0
Hedberg, T.B.	90	25	27.8	244	2.71	0	0.0	19	10	11.1

(Less than 10 attempts—but TD)

Blanchard, N.O.	3	1	33.3	3	1.00	1	33.3	3t	1	33.3
Krause, Minn.	1	1	100.0	11	11.00	1	100.0	11t	0	0.0
McQuikien, Atl.	7	5	71.4	47	6.71	1	14.3	14	0	0.0
Metcalfe, St.L.	5	3	60.0	27	5.40	1	20.0	11t	1	20.0

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.
Dixon, N.Y.G.	6	78	13.0	21	0
Hubbard, Det.	6	36	6.0	9	0
Earl, Chi.	6	32	5.3	20	0
Scales, L.A.	5	104	20.8	32	1
Lusk, Phil.	5	102	20.4	36t	1
Tilley, St.L.	5	64	12.8	31	0
Laidlaw, Dall.	5	60	12.0	18t	1
Jones, Wash.	5	55	11.0	15	0
Smith, St.L.	5	49	9.8	13	1
Hofer, S.F.	5	46	9.2	16	0
Young, L.A.	5	35	7.0	17	1
Simpson, G.B.	5	19	3.8	14	0
Mauti, N.O.	4	71	17.8	23	0
Mucker, T.B.	4	59	14.8	23	0
Baschnagel, Chi.	4	50	12.5	25	0
Betterson, Phil.	4	41	10.3	15	0
Bell, N.Y.G.	4	33	8.3	12	0
Bryant, L.A.	4	28	7.0	14	0
Johnson, Minn.	4	21	5.3	8	0
Spencer, N.Y.G.	4	20	5.0	15	0
Grim, Minn.	3	65	21.7	23	0
Strachan, N.O.	3	26	8.7	10	0
Lash, S.F.	3	22	7.3	16	0
Boykin, N.O.	3	21	7.0	9	0
Montgomery, Phil.	3	18	6.0	8	0
Musso, Chi.	3	13	4.3	21	0
McCrary, Atl.	2	48	24.0	49t	1
McIntyre, Atl.	1	27	27.0	27t	1
Ryckman, Atl.	1	5	5.0	5t	1
Grooms, N.O.	1	3	3.0	3t	1
Jodat, L.A.	1	2	2.0	2t	1

## INTERCEPTIONS

(1 if 9 or more yards—or TD)

## RECORDS

Most—14, Dick Lane, Los Angeles (1952)

Most Yds.—301, Don Doll, Detroit (1939)

Most TD's.—3, Dick Lynch, Giants (1963)

3, Herb Adderley, Green Bay (1965)

3, Lem Barney, Detroit (1967)

3, Monte Jackson, Los Angeles (1976)

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.
Lawrence, Atl.	7	138	19.7	36	0
Simpson, L.A.	6	157	26.2	42	0
Sanders, Phil.	6	122	20.3	45	0
Hunter, Det.	6	104	17.3	26	0
Ellis, Chi.	6	23	3.8	11	0
Edwards, Phil.	6	9	1.5	6	0
Logan, Phil.	5	124	24.8	45	0
Thomas, L.A.	5	97	19.4	30	0
Jackson, L.A.	5	73	14.6	33	0
Washington, M., T.B.	5	71	14.2	45t	1
Houston, Wash.	5	69	13.8	31	0
Brown, Atl.	5	56	11.2	24	0
Wehrli, St.L.	5	44	8.8	41	0
Harris, Dall.	5	7	1.4	7	0
Wood, T.B.	4	86	21.5	30t	1
White, T.B.	4	61	15.3	32	0
Easterling, Atl.	4	46	11.5	36	0
Bryant, Minn.	4	44	11.0	41	0
Nelson, St.L.	4	37	9.3	26	0

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Trs.
Lavender, Wash.	4	36	9.0	31	0
Fencil, Chi.	4	33	8.3	23	0
Plank, Chi.	4	32	8.0	20	0
Williams, Wash.	4	25	6.3	25	0
Ortega, Atl.	4	15	3.8	6	0
Luke, G.B.	4	9	2.3	7	0
Crist, N.O.	4	6	1.5	6	0
McCoy, G.B.	4	2	0.5	21	0
Byas, Atl.	3	122	40.7	72t	1
Sensibaugh, St.L.	3	110	36.7	79t	1
Henderson, Dall.	3	79	26.3	79t	1
Jauron, Det.	3	55	18.3	28	0
Bryant, N.Y.G.	3	54	18.0	54t	1
Scott, Wash.	3	42	14.0	25	0
Barney, Det.	3	27	9.0	22	0
Waters, Dall.	3	11	3.7	6	0
Wright, Minn.	3	0	0.0	0	0
Washington, D., S.F.	2	68	34.0	50	0
Brown, T.B.	2	66	33.0	27	0
Pinckney, Det.	2	61	30.5	48t	1
Rhodes, N.Y.G.	2	59	29.5	40	0
Lewis, T.B.	2	55	27.5	42	0
Elmendorf, L.A.	2	51	25.5	27	0
Johnson, L., Det.	2	51	25.5	32	0
Buchanan, G.B.	2	41	20.5	29t	1
Outlaw, Phil.	2	41	20.5	38	0
Washington, M., Dall.	2	32	16.0	21	0
Pennywell, Atl.	2	30	15.0	20t	1
Livers, Chi.	2	29	14.5	29	0
Selmon, T.B.	2	29	14.5	20	0
Renfro, Dall.	2	28	14.0	25	0
Youngblood, L.A.	2	27	13.5	25t	1
Krause, Minn.	2	25	12.5	25	0
Brudzinski, L.A.	2	24	12.0	23	0
Arneson, St.L.	2	23	11.5	15	0
Phillips, S.F.	2	23	11.5	23	0
Hughes, Dall.	2	19	9.5	11	0
Reaves, St.L.	2	17	8.5	10	0
McDole, Wash.	2	15	7.5	15	0
Van Pelt, N.Y.C.	2	9	4.5	9	0
Bergey, Phil.	2	4	2.0	4	0
Merlo, N.O.	1	57	57.0	57t	1
Esposito, Atl.	1	55	55.0	55	0
Martin, N.Y.G.	1	30	30.0	30t	1
McGill, S.F.	1	30	30.0	30	0
Lewis, Dall.	1	29	29.0	29	0
Wallace, L.A.	1	23	23.0	23	0
Allen, St.L.	1	22	22.0	22	0
Robertson, L.A.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Blair, Minn.	1	18	18.0	18	0
Kelley, N.Y.G.	1	17	17.0	17	0
Chapman, N.O.	1	16	16.0	16	0
Breunig, Dall.	1	15	15.0	15	0
Carr, G.B.	1	15	15.0	15	0
Kellum, St.L.	1	14	14.0	14	0
Laslavic, Det.	1	14	14.0	14	0
Buffone, Chi.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Gray, G.B.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Toner, G.B.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Hicks, Chi.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Kyle, Dall.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Mallory, N.Y.G.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Siemon, Minn.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Johnson, G., T.B.	1	0	0.0	0t	1

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## PUNTING

### RECORDS

Most—105, John James, Atlanta (1977)  
 Best Avg.—51.4, Sammy Baugh, Washington (1940)  
 Longest—94 yds., Wilbur Henry, Canton (1923)

	No.	Yds.	Long	Avg.	B/k
Blanchard, N.O.	84	3474	66	42.4	2
James, Atl.	105	4349	61	41.4	0
Parsons, Chi.	82	3232	58	40.4	2
Green, T.B.	99	3948	70	40.3	1
Jennings, N.Y.G.	100	3993	58	39.9	0
Beverly, G.B.	86	3391	59	39.9	1
Clabo, Minn.	93	3302	69	39.8	0
White, Dall.	81	3171	57	39.6	1
Bragg, Wash.	91	3502	56	38.5	0
Jones, Phil.	95	3463	68	37.2	2
Summers, Det.	94	3420	51	36.8	1
Carrell, N.Y.J.-St.L.	63	2314	56	36.7	0
Wittum, S.F.	80	2801	54	35.4	3
Walker, L.A.	73	2588	56	35.2	0

(Non-Qualifiers)

Joyce, St.L.	23	851	58	38.7	1
Hoopes, Det.	7	235	48	39.2	1

## PUNT RETURNS

(5 or more)

### RECORDS

Most—57, Eddie Brown, Washington (1977)  
 Most Yds.—646, Eddie Brown, Washington (1976)  
 Longest—98 yards, Gil Le Febvre, Cinn. (1933)  
 Charley West, Minn. (1968)  
 Dennis Morgan, Dallas (1974)

	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.
Marshall, Phil.	46	5	489	10.6	48	0
Hammond, N.Y.G.	32	8	334	10.4	68t	1
Payton, E., Clev.-Det.	30	0	290	9.7	87t	1
Schubert, Dhi.	31	9	291	9.4	70t	1
Harrell, G.B.	28	10	253	9.0	75t	1
Reece, T.B.	31	2	274	8.8	36	0
Johnson, Dall.	50	15	423	8.5	38	0
Brown, Wash.	57	8	452	7.9	43	0
Metcalfe, St.L.	14	0	108	7.7	23	0
Mauti, N.O.	37	10	281	7.6	33	0
Waddy, L.A.	31	5	219	7.1	48	0
Bryant, L.A.	20	1	141	7.1	26	0
Leonard, S.F.	22	2	154	7.0	19	0
Lawrence, Atl.	51	10	352	6.9	37	0
Moore, Minn.	47	2	277	5.9	28	0
Hagins, T.B.	17	1	85	5.0	29	0

(Non-Qualifiers)

Tilley, St.L.	13	4	111	8.5	21	0
Black, S.F.	13	1	38	2.9	11	0
Bradley, St.L.	11	0	77	7.0	14	0
Grim, Minn.	11	4	69	6.3	44	0
Jauron, Det.	11	8	41	3.7	12	0
Hill, Dall.	10	1	124	12.4	29	0
Gray, G.B.	10	3	68	6.8	24	0
Robinson, N.Y.G.	7	5	87	12.4	50	0
Ryckman, Atl.	7	2	40	5.7	20	0
Walterscheid, Chi.	6	1	59	9.8	18	0
Livers, Chi.	6	1	46	7.7	21	0
Stienke, N.Y.G.	5	0	30	6.0	13	0

## KICKOFF RETURNS

(5 or more—less if TD)

### RECORDS

Most—47, Larry Jones, Washington (1975)  
 Most Yds.—1314, Dave Hampton, Green Bay (1971)  
 Most TD's—4, Travis Williams, Green Bay (1967)  
 4, Cecil Turner, Chicago (1970)  
 Longest—106 yds., (TD), Al Carmichael, G.B. (1956)

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.
Montgomery, Phil.	23	619	26.9	99t	1
Chapman, N.O.	15	385	25.7	92t	1
Brown, Wash.	34	852	25.1	46	0
Payton, E., Clev.-Det.	22	548	24.9	98t	1
Johnson, Dall.	22	536	24.4	64	0
Baschnagel, Chi.	23	557	24.2	84t	1
Hofer, S.F.	36	871	24.2	48	0
Metcalfe, St.L.	32	772	24.1	51	0
Brinson, Dall.	17	409	24.1	41	0
Kane, Det.	16	376	23.5	33	0
Hagins, T.B.	21	493	23.5	41	0
Marshall, Phil.	20	455	22.8	44	0
Mauti, N.O.	27	609	22.6	38	0
Hammond, N.Y.G.	19	419	22.1	31	0
Moore, Minn.	24	524	21.8	48	0
Tyler, La.	24	523	21.8	37	0
Odum, G.B.	23	468	20.3	37	0
Farmer, Atl.	21	419	20.0	30	0
Davis, T.B.	15	277	18.5	28	0

(Non-Qualifiers)

Evans, Chi.	13	253	19.5	30	0
Beil, N.Y.G.	12	235	19.6	35	0
Willis, N.O.	8	148	18.5	27	0
Moriarty, Atl.	8	136	17.0	22	0
Jones, St.L.	8	132	16.5	25	0
Reece, N.Y.G.	7	159	22.7	32	0
White, Minn.	7	113	16.1	36	0
Best, Chi.	6	127	21.2	29	0
Bolton, Det.	6	86	14.3	26	0
Wagner, G.B.	6	62	10.3	20	0
Jodat, L.A.	5	129	25.8	38	0
Musso, Chi.	5	100	20.0	33	0
Thompson, Det.	5	84	16.8	24	0
Culbreath, G.B.	5	82	16.4	30	0
Boykin, N.O.	5	76	15.2	24	0
Rich, Det.	5	73	14.6	19	0
Miller, Minn.	5	66	13.2	20	0
Middletton, G.B.	4	141	35.3	85t	1
Williams, S.F.	4	122	30.5	80t	1

## SCORING

## RECORDS

Points—155, Gino Cappelletti, Boston (1964)  
TD's—23, O. J. Simpson, Buffalo (1975)  
FG's—34, Jim Turner, N.Y. Jets (1968)  
XP—64, George Blanda, Houston (1961)

	Td.	Td.	P.	XP	FG	FGA	Pts.
	R.	P.					
Mann, Oak.	0	0	39	20		88	99
Linhart, Balt.	0	0	32	17	26	83	
Bahr, Cin.	0	0	25	19	27	82	
Cockroft, Clev.	0	0	30	17	23	81	
Moore, Mia.	1	12	0	0	0	78	
Smith, N.E.	0	0	33	15	21	78	
Turner, Den.	0	1	31	13	19	76	
Rischke, S.D.	0	0	21	17	23	72	
Yepremian, Pitt.	0	0	37	10	22	67	
Harris, F. Mia.	11	0	0	0	0	66	
Leahy, N.Y.J.	0	0	18	15	25	63	
Gerela, Pitt.	0	0	34	9	14	61	
Largent, Sea.	0	10	0	0	0	60	
Leypoldt, Sea.	0	0	33	9	18	60	
Fritsch, Hou.	0	0	19	12	16	55	
Stenerud, K.C.	0	0	27	8	18	51	
Burrough, Hou.	0	8	0	0	0	48	
McCauley, Balt.	6	2	0	0	0	48	
Sims, Sea.	5	3	0	0	0	48	
Johnson, Hou.	4	3	0	0	0	42	
Mitchell, Balt.	3	4	0	0	0	42	
Stallworth, Pitt.	0	7	0	0	0	42	
Swann, Pitt.	0	7	0	0	0	42	
an Eghen, Oak.	7	0	0	0	0	42	
Barkum, N.Y.J.	0	6	0	0	0	36	
Branch, Oak.	0	6	0	0	0	36	
Casper, Oak.	0	6	0	0	0	36	
Coleman, Hou.	5	1	0	0	0	36	
Joiner, S.D.	0	6	0	0	0	36	
Smith, Sea.	4	2	0	0	0	36	
Stingley, N.E.	1	5	0	0	0	36	
Long, Buff.	0	0	13	7	11	34	
Banaszak, Oak.	5	0	0	0	0	30	
Biletnikoff, Oak.	0	5	0	0	0	30	
Cunningham, N.E.	4	1	0	0	0	30	
Davis, C., Oak.	5	0	0	0	0	30	
Harris, D., Mia.	0	5	0	0	0	30	
Malone, Mia.	5	0	0	0	0	30	
Miller, Clev.	4	1	0	0	0	30	
Parris, Pitt.	0	5	0	0	0	30	
Podolak, K.C.	5	0	0	0	0	30	
Testerman, Sea.	1	4	0	0	0	30	
White, K.C.	0	5	0	0	0	30	
Armstrong, Den.	4	0	0	0	0	24	
Bleier, Pitt.	4	0	0	0	0	24	
Brooks, Cin.	0	4	0	0	0	24	
Bulaich, Mia.	4	0	0	0	0	24	
Calhoun, N.E.	4	0	0	0	0	24	

OAKLAND kickers, RAY GUY, left, and ERROL MANN, led the AFL in punting and scoring last season.



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	R.	P.				
Chandler, Buff.	0	4	0	0	0	24
Doughty, Balt.	0	4	0	0	0	24
Francis, N.E.	0	4	0	0	0	24
Gaines, N.Y.J.	3	1	0	0	0	24
Harris, L. Mia.	4	0	0	0	0	24
Hasselbeck, N.E.	0	4	0	0	0	24
Johnson, Cin.	4	0	0	0	0	24
Leaks, Balt.	3	1	0	0	0	24
Marshall, K.C.	0	4	0	0	0	24
Morton, Den.	4	0	0	0	0	24
Moses, Den.	0	4	0	0	0	24
Perrin, Den.	3	1	0	0	0	24
Poole, Clev.	1	3	0	0	0	24
Pruitt, Clev.	3	1	0	0	0	24
Upchurch, Den.	2	2	0	0	0	24
Young, S.D.	4	0	0	0	0	24
Clayborn, N.E.	3	0	0	0	0	*20
Dempsey, Hou.	0	0	8	4	6	20
Bailey, K.C.	2	1	0	0	0	18
Bradshaw, Pitt.	3	0	0	0	0	18
Chester, Balt.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Davis, G. Mia.	2	1	0	0	0	18
Dolbin, Den.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Garrett, Oak.	1	2	0	0	0	18
Hardeman, Hou.	2	1	0	0	0	18
Kimbrough, Buff.	1	2	0	0	0	18
Lee, Balt.	3	0	0	0	0	18
McNally, Cin.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Morgan, N.E.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Odums, Den.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Walker, N.Y.J.	0	3	0	0	0	18
Wilson, Hou.	3	0	0	0	0	18
Anderson, Cin.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Braxton, Buff.	1	1	0	0	0	12
Brockington, K.C.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Cunningham, Pitt.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Curtis, Cin.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Davis, T. Cin.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Dean, S.D.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Dorsey, S.D.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Ferguson, B. Sea.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Ferguson, J. Buff.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Forde, N.E.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Fuller, S.D.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Grant, Buff.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Gray, K.C.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Harris, J. S.D.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Jones, Balt.	2	1	0	0	0	12
Lytle, Den.	1	1	0	0	0	12
Nottingham, Mia.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Pastorini, Hou.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Piccone, Buff.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Reed, K.C.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Roan, Clev.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Rucker, Clev.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Scott, Balt.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Siani, Oak.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Solomon, Mia.	1	1	0	0	0	12
Thornton, Pitt.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Tillman, Mia.	0	2	0	0	0	12
Todd, N.Y.J.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Warfield, Clev.	0	2	0	0	0	12
White, N.Y.J.	1	1	0	0	0	12
Williams, C. S.D.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Williams, R. Cin.	2	0	0	0	0	12
Woods, S.D.	1	1	0	0	0	12
O'Donoghue, Buff.	0	0	4	2	6	10
Alexander, Hou.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Barbaro, K.C.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Barber, Hou.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Bauer, S.D.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Beamon, Sea.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Bingham, Hou.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Brown, C. Buff.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Brown, D. Sea.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Bujnoch, Cin.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Buttie, N.Y.J.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Carpenter, Hous.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Carr, Balt.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Caster, N.Y.J.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Clark, Cin.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Collier, K.C.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Corbett, Cin.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Cornell, Buff.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Darden, Clev.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Dierking, N.Y.J.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Duncan, Clev.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Elliott, Cin.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Grogan, N.E.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Hadi, Hou.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Hall, Oak.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Harper, N.Y.J.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Howard, Sea.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Hunter, Sea.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Irons, Clev.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Jackson, Den.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Jensen, Den.	1	0	0	0	0	6

See Special Gift Offer  
On Page 11

Who Beat the Vegas  
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See Page 11

	Td.	Td.	XP	FG	FGA	Tot.
R.	P.					Pts.
Jones, D., Buff.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Jones, L., S.D.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Keyworth, Den.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Klein, S.D.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Lane, K.C.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Lee, K.C.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Lewis, Pitt.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Livingston, K.C.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Logan, Clev.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Luck, Clev.	0	1	0	0	0	6
McCreary, Mia.	0	1	0	0	0	6
McCullum, Sea.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Moody, Buff.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Moore, Hou.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Parrish, Cin.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Phillips, N.E.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Pratt, Balt.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Pruitt, Clev.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Rae, Oak.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Robles, Oak.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Scott, Clev.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Shelby, Cin.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Sternick, Hou.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Trumpy, Cin.	0	1	0	0	0	6
Weese, Den.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Williams, K.C.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Wright, Den.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Zorn, Sea.	1	0	0	0	0	6
Butler, Hou.	0	0	2	0	3	2

\* Includes Safety

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 Most TD's—16, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1975)  
 Most Yds.—2003, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1973)  
 16, Pete Banaszak, Oakland (1975)

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.
van Eeghen, Oak.	324	1273	3.9	27	7
Harris, F., Pitt.	300	1162	3.9	61t	11
Mitchell, Balt.	301	1159	3.9	64t	3
Pruitt, Clev.	236	1086	4.6	78t	3
Cunningham, N.E.	270	1015	3.8	31t	4
Davis, C., Oak.	194	787	4.1	37t	5
Smith, Sea.	163	763	4.7	39	4
Miller, Clev.	163	756	4.6	38	4
Calhoun, N.E.	198	727	3.7	25	4
Coleman, Hou.	185	660	3.6	22	5
Carpenter, Hou.	144	652	4.5	77	1
Malone, Mia.	129	615	4.8	66t	5
Gaines, N.Y.J.	158	595	3.8	19	3
Johnson, Cin.	153	585	3.8	65	4
Simpson, Buff.	126	557	4.4	39	0
Podolak, K.C.	133	550	4.1	41	5
Griffin, Cin.	137	549	4.0	31	0
Young, S.D.	157	543	3.5	15	4
Davis, G., Mia.	126	533	4.2	60t	2
Reed, K.C.	126	505	4.0	59	2
Hooks, Buff.	128	497	3.9	66	0
Armstrong, Den.	130	489	3.8	35	4
Bleier, Pitt.	135	465	3.4	16	4
Testerman, Sea.	119	459	3.9	20	1
Perrin, Den.	110	456	4.1	62	3
Harris, L., Mia.	91	417	4.6	77t	4
Bulaich, Mia.	91	416	4.6	29	4
Lytte, Den.	104	408	3.9	21	1
Woods, S.D.	118	405	3.4	29t	1
Braxton, Buff.	113	372	3.3	12	1
Sims, Sea.	99	369	3.7	17t	5
Lee, Balt.	84	346	4.1	30	3
Wilson, Hou.	99	343	3.5	16	3
Grogan, N.E.	61	324	5.3	41	1
Dierking, N.Y.J.	79	315	4.0	21	0
Keyworth, Den.	83	311	3.7	16	1
Ferguson, Buff.	41	279	6.8	41	2
Ellott, Cin.	65	269	4.1	32	0
Bailey, K.C.	66	266	4.0	37t	2
Leaks, Balt.	59	237	4.0	39	3
McCauley, Balt.	83	234	2.8	16	6
Clark, Cin.	68	226	3.3	10t	1
Washington, S.D.	62	217	3.5	19	0
Williams, S.D.	50	215	4.3	46	2
Nottingham, Mia.	44	214	4.9	13	2
Banaszak, Oak.	67	214	3.2	11	5
Pruitt, Clev.	47	205	4.4	21	1
Harper, N.Y.J.	44	198	4.5	18	0
Matthews, S.D.	43	193	4.5	22	0
Brockington, G.B.-K.C.	65	186	2.9	12	1
Hunter, Sea.	32	179	5.6	20	1
Harrison, Pitt.	36	175	4.9	33	0
Garrett, Oak.	53	175	3.3	13	1
Bradshaw, Pitt.	31	171	5.5	26	3
Long, N.Y.J.	56	170	3.0	12	0
Hardeman, Hou.	42	162	3.9	18	2

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	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.
Forte, N.E.	62	157	2.5	16	2
White, N.Y.J.	50	151	3.0	27	1
Jones, Balt.	28	146	5.2	22	2
Jensen, Den.	40	143	3.6	12	1
Zorn, Sea.	25	141	5.6	15	1
Anderson, Cin.	26	128	4.9	17	2
Morton, Den.	31	125	4.0	15	4
Poole, Clev.	38	118	3.1	12	1
Collier, Buff.	31	116	3.7	15	0
Thornton, Pitt.	27	103	3.8	18	2
Johnson, Hou.	6	102	17.0	61	1
Robiskie, Oak.	22	100	4.5	10	1
Moore, Mia.	14	89	6.4	24	1
Davis, T., Cin.	27	81	3.0	13	2
Lane, K.C.	25	79	3.2	9	1
Livingston, K.C.	19	78	4.1	13	1
Rae, Oak.	13	75	5.8	21	1
McKnight, K.C.	11	74	6.7	19	0
Barnes, S.D.	24	70	2.9	7	0
Weese, Den.	11	56	5.1	21	1
Maxson, Pitt.	18	56	3.1	8	0
Smith, Pitt.	14	55	3.9	16	0
Burks, K.C.	1	51	51.0	51	0
Benjamin, Sea.	13	46	3.7	10	0
Stallworth, Pitt.	6	47	7.8	15	0
Todd, N.Y.J.	24	46	1.9	13	2
Robinson, N.Y.J.	5	45	9.0	19	0
Rodgers, S.D.	3	44	14.7	33	0
Solomon, Mia.	6	43	7.2	14	0
Newton, N.Y.J.	8	39	4.9	8	0
Pastorini, Hou.	18	39	2.2	15	2
Brown, Buff.	8	34	4.3	9	0
Browning, N.E.	3	33	11.0	34	1
Williams, K.C.	2	30	15.0	17	0
Olander, S.D.	7	30	4.3	17	0
Griese, Mia.	16	30	1.9	13	0
Phillips, N.E.	5	27	5.4	13	1
Keller, N.Y.J.	1	25	25.0	25	0
Walker, N.Y.J.	3	25	8.3	11	0
Pennrose, Den.	4	24	6.0	17	0
Domes, N.Y.J.	4	23	5.8	11	0
Adams, K.C.	5	21	4.2	8	0
Casanova, Cin.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Voight, Hou.	7	20	2.9	6	0
Upchurch, Den.	1	19	19.0	19	1
Diggs, N.Y.J.	1	16	16.0	16	0
Duncan, Clev.	5	16	3.2	10	0
Sipe, Clev.	10	14	1.4	9	0
Fouts, S.D.	6	13	2.2	11	0
Harris, J., S.D.	10	13	1.3	12	2
Dolbin, Den.	2	12	6.0	14	0
Morgado, K.C.	3	12	4.0	9	0
Anderson, Mia.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Doughty, Balt.	2	11	5.5	16	0
Hadi, Hou.	3	11	3.7	6	1
Marshall, K.C.	7	11	1.6	7	0
Morgan, N.E.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Ivory, N.E.	3	10	3.3	9	0
Burrough, Hou.	4	10	2.5	28	0
Fuller, S.D.	1	E	7.0	7	1
Bujnoch, Cin.	1	4	4.0	4	1

## PASS RECEIVING

(3 or more—less if TD)

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.
Mitchell, Balt.	71	620	8.7	38	4
Chandler, Buff.	60	745	12.4	31	4
Gaines, N.Y.J.	55	469	8.5	31	1
Moore, Mia.	52	765	14.7	73	12
McCauley, Balt.	51	495	9.7	34	2
Swann, Pitt.	50	789	15.8	46	7
White, K.C.	48	674	14.0	48	5
Kasper, Oak.	48	584	12.2	27	6
Young, S.D.	48	423	8.8	28	0
Stallworth, Pitt.	44	784	17.8	49	7
Burrough, Hou.	43	816	19.0	85	8
Braxton, Buff.	43	461	10.7	27	1
Cunningham, N.E.	42	370	8.8	35	1
Grant, Buff.	41	646	15.8	39	2
Miller, Clev.	41	291	7.1	28	1
Brooks, Cin.	39	772	19.8	94	4
Stingley, N.E.	39	657	16.8	68	5
Prutt, Clev.	37	471	12.7	60	1
Odoms, Den.	37	429	11.6	33	3
Rucker, Clev.	36	565	15.7	40	2
Walker, N.Y.J.	35	740	21.1	87	3
Joiner, S.D.	35	542	15.5	32	6
Harris, D., Mia.	34	601	17.7	47	5
Largent, Sea.	33	643	19.5	74	10
Branch, Oak.	33	540	16.4	43	6
Biletnikoff, Oak.	33	446	13.5	44	5
Podolak, K.C.	32	313	9.8	23	0
Chester, Balt.	31	556	17.9	78	3
Washington, S.D.	31	244	7.9	29	n
Testerman, Sea.	31	219	7.1	25	4
Smith, S., Sea.	30	419	14.0	44	2
Elliott, Cin.	29	238	8.2	33	1
Doughty, Balt.	28	435	15.5	57	4
Griffin, Cin.	28	240	8.6	24	0
Moses, Den.	27	539	20.0	35	4
Barkum, N.Y.J.	26	450	17.3	40	6
Dolbin, Den.	26	443	17.0	81	3
Bulaich, Mia.	25	180	7.2	14	0
Siani, Oak.	24	344	14.3	39	2
Marshall, K.C.	23	445	19.3	49	4
Carpenter, Hou.	23	156	6.8	27	0
Coleman, Hou.	22	115	5.2	21	1
Morgan, N.E.	21	443	21.1	64	3
Brookington, G.B.-K.C.	21	223	10.6	48	1
Parris, Clev.	21	213	10.1	26	5
Harper, N.Y.J.	21	209	10.0	55	1

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## PASSING

## RECORDS

Most completions—262, George Blanda, Houston (1964)  
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 Most Yds.—4007, Joe Namath, N.Y. Jets (1967)  
 Longest—98 yds. (TD), Jack Lee, Houston, to Dewveall (1962)

## AFC INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS

	Atts.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds. Gain	Avg. Gain	Tds.	Pct. Tds.	Long	Int.	Pct. Int.
Griese, Mia.	307	180	58.6	2252	7.34	22	7.2	73t	13	4.2
Morton, Den.	254	131	51.6	1929	7.59	14	5.5	81t	8	3.1
Jones, Balt.	393	224	57.0	2686	6.83	17	4.3	78t	11	2.8
Stabler, Oak.	294	169	57.5	2176	7.40	20	6.8	44t	20	6.8
Bradshaw, Pitt.	314	162	51.6	2523	8.04	17	5.4	65t	19	6.1
Anderson, Cin.	323	166	51.4	2145	6.64	11	3.4	94t	11	3.4
Grogan, N.E.	305	160	52.5	2162	7.09	17	5.6	68	21	6.9
Pastorini, Hou.	319	169	53.0	1987	6.23	13	4.1	85t	18	5.6
Sipe, Clev.	195	112	57.4	1233	6.32	9	4.6	52t	14	7.2
Todd, N.Y.J.	265	133	50.2	1863	7.03	11	4.2	87t	17	6.4
Livingston, K.C.	282	143	50.7	1823	6.46	9	3.2	49	15	5.3
Harris, J., S.D.	211	109	51.7	1240	5.88	5	2.4	78	11	5.2
Ferguson, Buff.	457	221	48.4	2803	6.13	12	2.6	42	24	5.3
Zorn, Sea.	251	104	41.4	1687	6.72	16	6.4	82t	19	7.6

## (Non-Qualifiers)

Weese, Den.	20	11	55.0	119	5.95	1	5.0	31	0	0.0
Munson, S.O.	31	20	64.5	225	7.26	1	3.2	28	1	3.2
Fouts, S.D.	109	69	63.3	869	7.97	4	3.7	67t	6	5.5
Graff, Pitt.	12	6	50.0	47	3.92	0	0.0	21	0	0.0
Mays, Clev.	121	67	55.4	797	6.59	6	5.0	60	10	8.3
Domres, N.Y.J.	40	17	42.5	113	2.83	1	2.5	18	1	2.5
Myer, Sea.	130	70	53.8	729	5.61	6	4.6	45t	12	9.2
Adams, K.C.	92	47	51.1	691	7.51	2	2.2	63	11	12.0
Rae, Oak.	30	15	50.0	162	5.40	1	3.3	30	4	13.3
Luck, Clev.	50	25	50.0	316	6.32	1	2.0	33	7	14.0
Penrose, Den.	39	21	53.8	217	5.56	0	0.0	35	4	10.3
Robinson, N.Y.J.	54	20	37.0	310	5.74	2	3.7	58	8	14.8
Reaves, Cin.	59	24	40.7	383	6.49	0	0.0	40	5	8.5
Olander, S.D.	16	7	43.8	76	4.75	0	0.0	15	2	12.5
Hadl, Hou.	24	11	45.8	76	3.17	0	0.0	18	3	12.5

## (Less than 10 attempts—but TD)

Coleman, Hou.	3	1	33.3	44	14.67	1	33.3	44t	0	0.0
Griffin, Cin.	1	1	100.0	18	16.00	1	100.0	18t	0	0.0
Pruitt, Clev.	9	4	44.4	28	3.11	3	33.3	13	0	0.0
Sims, Sea.	4	1	25.0	43	10.75	1	25.0	43t	1	25.0
Washington, S.D.	1	1	100.0	32	32.00	1	100.0	32t	0	0.0

Receiving cont.	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.	
Johnson, B., Hou.	20	412	20.6	71t	3	Solomon, Mia.	12	181	15.1	54t	1
Cunningham, Pitt.	20	347	17.4	43t	2	Sims, Sea.	12	176	14.7	82t	3
Curtis, Cin.	20	338	16.9	54	2	McDaniel, Cin.	12	148	12.3	31	0
Brunson, K.C.	20	295	14.8	63	0	Reed, K.C.	12	125	10.4	20	0
Klein, S.D.	20	244	12.2	41	1	Lewis, Pitt.	11	263	23.9	65t	1
Wilson, Hou.	20	107	5.4	17	0	Carr, Balt.	11	199	18.1	45	1
Ferguson, Sea.	19	374	19.7	45t	2	Harris, F., Pitt.	11	62	5.6	15	0
Logan, Clev.	19	284	14.9	42	1	Keyworth, Den.	11	48	4.4	14	0
Scott, Balt.	18	267	14.8	33	2	Hardeman, Hou.	11	47	4.3	9	1
Trumpy, Cin.	18	251	13.9	32	1	Kimbrough, Buff.	10	207	20.7	42	2
Warfield, Clev.	18	251	13.9	52t	2	Caster, N.Y.J.	10	205	20.5	58	1
Woods, S.D.	18	218	12.1	78	1	Dorsey, S.D.	10	198	19.8	67t	2
Bleier, Pitt.	18	161	8.9	30	0	Curran, S.D.	10	123	12.3	20	0
Armstrong, Den.	18	128	7.1	20	0	Sawyer, Sea.	10	105	10.5	27	0
McInally, Cin.	17	258	15.2	43t	3	Lee, Balt.	10	60	6.0	15	0
Piccone, Buff.	17	240	14.1	25	2	McCullum, Sea.	9	198	22.0	65t	1
Bailey, K.C.	17	206	12.1	47t	1	Barber, Hou.	9	94	10.4	23	1
Lytle, Den.	17	198	11.6	47t	1	Davis, T., Cin.	9	83	9.2	28	0
Howard, Sea.	17	177	10.4	24	1	Hasselbeck, N.E.	9	76	8.4	21	4
Tillman, Mia.	17	169	9.9	37t	2	Holland, Buff.	8	107	13.4	27	0
Giles, Hou.	17	147	8.6	17	0	Forte, N.E.	8	88	11.0	22	0
Poole, Clev.	17	137	8.1	21	3	Garrett, Oak.	8	61	7.6	13	2
Francis, N.E.	16	229	14.3	31t	3	Nottingham, Mia.	8	58	7.3	16	0
Hooks, Buff.	16	195	12.2	33	0	Knight, N.Y.J.	7	129	18.4	49	0
Simpson, Buff.	16	138	8.6	18	0	Corbett, Cin.	7	127	18.1	47t	1
Davis, C., Oak.	16	124	7.8	28	0	Williams, K.C.	7	94	13.4	24	0
Foster, Hou.	15	208	13.9	56	0	Chandler, N.E.	7	68	9.7	16	0
van Eeghen, Oak.	15	135	9.0	30	0	Clark, Cin.	7	33	4.7	11	0
Davis, G., Mia.	14	151	10.8	32	1	Harris, L., Mia.	7	29	4.1	11	0
McDonald, S.D.	13	174	13.4	22	0	Perrin, Den.	6	106	17.7	41t	1
Calhoun, N.E.	13	152	11.7	47	0	Mandich, Mia.	6	63	10.5	15	0
Roan, Clev.	13	136	10.5	27	2	Bradshaw, Oak.	5	90	18.0	28	0
Upchurch, Den.	12	245	20.4	45	2	Burke, N.E.	5	79	15.8	22	0
Rodgers, S.D.	12	187	15.6	43	0	Raible, Sea.	5	79	15.8	22	0

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Receiving cont.	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.
Maxson, Pitt.	5	70	14.0	34	0
Samuels, K.C.	5	65	13.0	32	0
Grossman, Pitt.	5	57	11.4	20	0
Johnson, P., Cin.	5	49	9.8	21	0
Hunter, Sea.	5	42	8.4	20	0
Newton, N.Y.J.	5	33	6.6	9	0
Brown, Buff.	5	20	4.0	12t	1
Long, N.Y.J.	5	17	3.4	7	0
Smith, J., Pitt.	4	80	20.0	26	0
Jensen, Den.	4	63	15.8	34	0
Malone, Mia.	4	58	14.5	35	0
Dierking, N.Y.J.	4	29	7.3	15	1
Benjamin, Sea.	4	27	6.8	9	0
Matthews, S.D.	3	41	13.7	23	0
Lane, K.C.	3	40	13.3	21	0
Leaks, Balt.	3	39	13.0	26t	1
Dollier, Buff.	3	23	7.7	11	0
Williams, S.D.	3	20	6.7	9	0
Pruitt, Clev.	3	12	4.0	6	0
Harrison, Pitt.	3	11	3.7	7	0
McCreary, Mia.	2	10	5.0	9	1
White, N.Y.J.	2	5	2.5	3t	1
Turner, Den.	1	25	25.0	25t	1
Bauer, S.D.	1	15	15.0	15t	1
Duncan, Clev.	1	5	5.0	5t	1
Luck, Clev.	1	4	4.0	4t	1

## INTERCEPTIONS

(2 or more—Less if TD)

### RECORDS

Most—12, Fred Glick, Houston (1963)  
12, Dainard Paulson, Jets (1964)  
12, Emmitt Thomas, Kansas City (1974)  
Most Yds.—349, Charlie McNeil, San Diego (1961)  
Most TD's—4, Ken Houston, Houston (1971)  
4, Jim Kearney, Kansas City (1973)

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng.	Tds.
Blackwood, Balt.	10	163	16.3	37	0
Greene, Buff.	9	144	16.0	47	0
Barbaro, K.C.	8	165	20.6	102t	1
Clark, Buff.	7	151	21.6	43	0
White, Balt.	7	84	12.0	19	0
Tatum, Oak.	6	146	24.3	41	0
Darden, Clev.	6	107	17.8	49	1
Blount, Pitt.	6	65	10.8	37	0
Beamon, Sea.	6	36	6.0	20	0
Thompson, Den.	5	122	24.4	38	0
Reinfeldt, Hou.	5	78	15.6	30	0
Allen, Pitt.	5	76	15.2	48	0
Fuller, S.D.	5	61	12.2	37	0
Haynes, N.E.	5	54	10.8	22	0
McMillan, Sea.	4	157	39.3	57	0
Jackson, T., Den.	4	95	23.8	73t	1
Brown, Sea.	4	68	17.0	29	1
Stringer, S.D.	4	64	16.0	29	0
McCray, N.E.	4	61	15.3	48	0
Preece, Sea.	4	55	13.8	29	0
Duren, S.D.	4	45	11.3	25	0
Johnson, Mia.	4	35	8.8	19	0
Brown, Oak.	4	24	6.0	18	0
Ham, Pitt.	4	17	4.3	9	0
Howard, N.E.	4	10	2.5	6	0
Wright, Den.	3	128	42.7	59	1
Edwards, Pitt.	3	116	38.7	51	0
Alexander, Hou.	3	111	37.0	95t	1
Irons, Clev.	3	99	33.0	53t	1
Parrish, Cin.	3	95	31.7	47t	1
Scott, Clev.	3	72	24.0	49t	1
Davis, O., Clev.	3	71	23.7	32	0
Williams, Din.	3	67	22.3	54t	1
Gradshtar, Den.	3	56	18.7	28	0
Laird, Balt.	3	56	18.7	22	0
Moore, Hou.	3	56	18.7	34	0
Bolton, Clev.	3	50	16.7	43	0
Rizzo, Den.	3	49	16.3	36	0
Brazile, Hou.	3	40	13.3	16	0
Fox, N.E.	3	39	13.0	27	0
Thompson, Balt.	3	39	13.0	20	0
Dungy, Pitt.	3	37	12.3	29	0
Williams, S.D.	3	36	12.0	36	0
Washington, T., Hou.	3	26	8.7	19	0
Munsey, Balt.	3	25	8.3	14	0
Thomas, Mia.	3	23	7.7	23	0
Foley, Den.	3	22	7.3	22	0
Green, K.C.	3	19	6.3	19	0
Owens, N.Y.J.	3	18	6.0	12	0
Foley, Mia.	3	17	5.7	17	0
Shell, Pitt.	3	14	4.7	8	0
Colzie, Oak.	3	13	4.3	13	0
Geddes, Sea.	3	9	3.0	6	0
Lynch, K.C.	3	8	2.7	6	0
Collier, K.C.	2	134	67.0	100t	1
Buttle, N.Y.J.	2	24	27.0	44t	1
Atkinson, Oak.	2	38	19.0	24	0
Cobb, Cin.	2	37	18.5	34	0
MacLeod, Balt.	2	37	18.5	33	0
Bingham, Hou.	2	36	18.0	30	0
Phillips, Oak.	2	35	17.5	29	0
Jones, Buff.	2	30	15.0	24t	1
Peters, Clev.	2	29	14.5	25	0
White, Pitt.	2	27	13.5	19	0
Dufek, Sea.	2	26	13.0	27	0
Harris, Cin.	2	17	8.5	10	0
Hunt, N.E.	2	17	8.5	10	0
Gray, K.C.	2	16	8.0	11	0
Johnson, M., Oak.	2	15	7.5	15	0
Riley, Cin.	2	14	7.0	14	0
Thomas, Pitt.	2	10	5.0	12	0
LeClair, Cin.	2	8	4.0	8	0
Winston, Pitt.	2	7	3.5	7	0
Rice, Oak.	2	5	2.5	3	0
Currier, Hou.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Harrison, Buff.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Dean, S.D.	1	22	22.0	22t	1
Jones, S.D.	1	17	17.0	17t	1

## PUNTING

## RECORDS

Most—105, Bob Scarpitto, Denver (1967)					
Best Avg.—46.2, Dave Lewis, Cin. (1970)					
Longest—98 yds., Steve O'Neal, N.Y. Jets (1969)					
	No.	Yds.	Lng.	Avg.	Bk.
Guy, Oak.	59	2552	74	43.3	0
McInally, Cin.	68	2802	67	41.8	1
Wilson, K.C.	89	3510	59	39.9	1
Bateman, Buff.	83	3229	75	39.9	2
Weaver, Sea.	59	2293	59	39.5	1
Parsley, Hou.	79	3030	55	39.4	2
Dilts, Den.	90	3525	63	39.2	0
Coleman, Cleve.	61	2389	58	39.2	0
Lee, Balt.	84	3142	59	38.3	2
Michel, Mia.	35	1338	61	38.2	0
West, S.D.	73	2707	59	37.6	1
Ramsey, N.Y.J.	62	2298	61	37.1	0
Walden, Pitt.	68	2482	65	37.0	1
Patrick, N.E.	68	2354	64	36.2	3
(Non-Qualifiers)					
Seiple, Mia.	23	801	54	36.4	1
Engles, Sea.-Pitt.	10	306	48	34.0	1

## PUNT RETURNS

## RECORDS

Most—51, Rick Upchurch, Denver (1977)					
Most Yds.—655, Neal Colzie, Oakland (1975)					
Longest—95 yds., Les Duncan, San Diego (1968)					
	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Lng. Tds.
Johnson, Hou.	35	8	539	15.4	87/1 2
Morgan, N.E.	16	2	220	13.8	53 0
Moody, Buff.	15	6	196	13.1	91/1 1
Fuller, S.D.	28	2	360	12.9	88/1 1
Upchurch, Den.	51	6	653	12.8	87/1 1
Harper, N.Y.J.	34	5	425	12.5	49 0
Davis, Cin.	19	6	220	11.6	70 0
Kimbrough, Buff.	16	1	184	11.5	73/1 1
Rodgers, S.D.	15	0	158	10.5	52 0
Colzie, Oak.	32	6	348	10.4	23 0
Woolsey, Cleve.	32	3	290	9.1	44 0
Solomon, Mia.	32	1	285	8.9	39 0
Stevens, Balt.	34	6	301	8.9	24 0
Haynes, N.E.	24	2	200	8.3	46 0
Green, K.C.	14	2	115	8.2	18 0
Smith, Pitt.	36	0	294	8.2	30 0
Packer, Sea.	20	0	131	6.6	31 0
Brunson, K.C.	20	0	108	5.4	19 0
(Non-Qualifiers)					
Jennings, S.F.-Oak.	12	1	71	5.9	19 0
Shelby, Cin.	11	3	54	4.9	18 0
Swann, Pitt.	9	0	88	9.8	31 0
Ferguson, Sea.	8	3	54	6.8	14 0
Blackwood, Balt.	7	5	22	3.1	10 0
Pane, Den.	6	2	48	8.0	14 0
Largent, Sea.	4	1	32	8.0	12 0
Parrish, Cin.	4	0	30	7.5	11 0
Anderson, Mia.	4	1	3	0.8	3 0
Schroy, N.Y.J.	3	0	38	12.7	17 0
Holden, Cin.	3	0	14	4.7	13 0
Feacher, Cleve.	2	0	15	7.5	15 0
Podolak, K.C.	2	1	13	6.5	7 0
Babb, Mia.	2	1	10	5.0	7 0
Forte, N.E.	2	1	9	4.5	6 0

## KICKOFF RETURNS

(6 or more)

## RECORDS

Most—47, Odell Barry, Denver (1964)				
Most Yds.—1317, Bobby Jancik, Houston (1963)				
Most TDs.—3, Ray Clayborn, New England (1977)				
Longest—106 yds. (TD), Noland Smith, K.C. (1967)				
	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Lng. Tds.
Clayborn, N.E.	28	869	31.0	101 3
Davis, Mia.	14	414	29.6	73 0
Johnson, Hou.	25	630	25.2	76 1
Harper, N.Y.J.	42	1035	24.6	60 0
Smith, Pitt.	16	381	23.8	37 0
Kimbrough, Buff.	15	346	23.1	27 0
Smith, Pitt.	16	365	22.8	33 0
Upchurch, Den.	20	456	22.8	32 0
Hunter, Sea.	36	820	22.8	41 0
Laird, Balt.	24	541	22.5	35 0
Shelby, Cin.	19	403	21.2	38 0
Moody, Buff.	30	636	21.2	45 0
Williams, K.C.-Clev.	25	518	20.7	48 0
Williams, S.D.	24	481	20.0	32 0
Garrett, Oak.	21	420	20.0	31 0
Duncan, Clev.	15	298	19.9	36 0
(Non Qualifiers)				
Packer, Sea.	13	280	21.5	44 0
McKnight, K.C.	12	305	25.4	70 0
Ferguson, Sea.	11	240	21.8	39 0
Reed, K.C.	11	239	21.7	39 0
Feacher, Clev.	11	219	19.9	26 0
Brunson, K.C.	11	216	19.6	32 0
Stevens, Balt.	11	216	19.6	37 0
Solomon, Mia.	10	273	27.3	90 1
Griffin, Cin.	9	192	21.3	31 0
Anderson, Hou.	8	182	22.8	38 0
Voight, Hou.	8	156	19.5	34 0
Owens, S.D.	8	132	16.5	19 0
Anderson, J. Cin.	8	129	16.1	21 0
Anderson, T. Mia.	7	167	23.9	40 0
Jennings, S.F.-Oak.	7	153	21.9	29 0
Hardee, N.Y.J.	7	148	21.1	36 0
Wesson, K.C.	7	129	18.4	27 0
Banaszak, Oak.	7	119	17.0	30 0
Pough, Pitt.	7	111	15.9	22 0
Schultz, Den.	6	135	22.5	33 0
Pruitt, Clev.	6	131	21.8	31 0
Phillips, N.E.	6	93	15.5	22 0
Dierking, N.Y.J.	6	91	15.2	20 0
Robiskie, Oak.	6	83	13.8	24 0

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Sept. 18	2,700	6 - 3	810	3,820
Sept. 25	2,400	6 - 2	1,140	4,960
Oct. 2	3,000	6 - 4	480	5,440
Oct. 9	1,500	5 - 0	1,500	6,940
Oct. 16	3,300	8 - 3	1,410	8,350
Oct. 23	3,600	8 - 4	1,080	9,430
Oct. 30	2,100	5 - 2	840	10,270
Nov. 6	2,700	8 - 1	2,070	12,340
Nov. 13	1,800	2 - 4	(720)	11,620
Nov. 20	600	1 - 1	(30)	11,590
Nov. 27	600	2 - 0	600	12,190
Dec. 4	900	3 - 0	900	13,090
Dec. 11	600	1 - 1	(30)	13,060

EVERY STATEMENT IN THIS AD IS 100% TRUE AND IS DOCUMENTED BY OUR SELECTIONS IN EACH OF OUR WEEKLY ISSUES (OUR SUBSCRIBERS SAW IT HAPPEN EACH WEEK)

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### VEGAS LINE IN EACH ISSUE

We receive the Vegas line late Sunday night and print it in each issue. You can see Dr. Sullivan's line next to the Vegas line and can immediately tell what the good plays are.

## CBS-TV FACTFINDER TEAM SURVEYS FOOTBALL PREDICTION SERVICES

On Sept. 9, 1977, WINNERS received a request from CBS-TV, Chicago Station WBBM Sports Factfinder Investigation Team to participate in their comparison of football prediction services. They requested each service to send them all back issues from 1976 plus the upcoming 5 issues for Oct. 1977. They would then analyze the results and air a report on the findings. Quoting from their letter: "If you truly have the confidence that your advertisements imply, this is the chance to prove yourself." We complied and the results of the survey were aired on CBS-TV on Nov. 14, 15 and 16. Overall, the report did not have too high an opinion of the services. The ones they checked averaged only 49.5% against the spread. One could have picked teams at random and done as well. The announcer then said the best service did 69% against the spread. As the TV camera focused in on the WINNERS AD, the announcer stated that this was the best service, one of the least expensive, and also offers a money-back guarantee. We, at Winners, are proud of this recognition, but we (and our subscribers) always knew we were the best.

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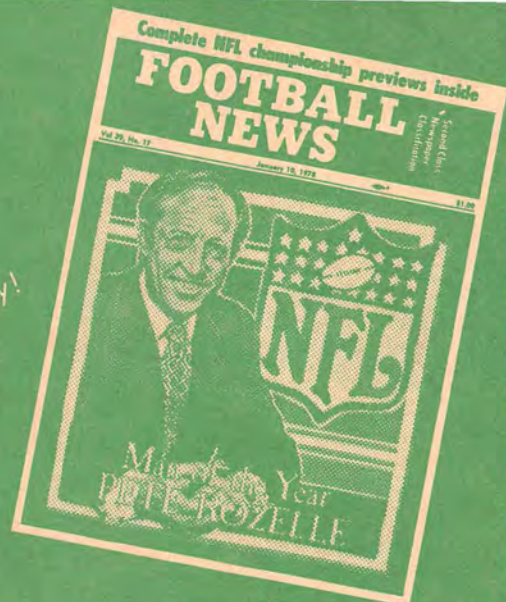
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Keith Jackson wins Van Patrick Award—Pg. 4

### FOOTBALL NEWS

Vol. 30, No. 13

November 28, 1977

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#### Texas rolls on as No. 1

After leading the nation in scoring for the last two weeks, Texas rolled again on Saturday, beating Oklahoma 24-14 in the Big Eight championship game. The Longhorns, who have won 11 of their last 12 games, are now 10-1 overall and 7-0 in the Big Eight. They are the only team in the nation with a perfect record in the Big Eight. The Sooners, who were the defending champions, were defeated 24-14. The game was played at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. Texas' quarterback, Earl Campbell, was named the Big Eight MVP. He had 1,000 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns. The game was a defensive struggle, with Texas' defense holding the Sooners to 14 points. Texas' offense was led by Campbell, who had 100 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns. The game was a defensive struggle, with Texas' defense holding the Sooners to 14 points. Texas' offense was led by Campbell, who had 100 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns.

#### Ohio State-Michigan collide

#### Five major games end college season

The college football season came to a close Saturday with five major games. The most highly anticipated matchup was between Ohio State and Michigan. The Buckeyes defeated the Wolverines 21-14 in a game that was a defensive struggle. The game was played at the Big House in Ann Arbor. Ohio State's quarterback, Terry Stroot, was named the Big Ten MVP. He had 1,000 yards passing and 10 touchdowns. The game was a defensive struggle, with Ohio State's defense holding the Wolverines to 14 points. Ohio State's offense was led by Stroot, who had 100 yards passing and 10 touchdowns. The game was a defensive struggle, with Ohio State's defense holding the Wolverines to 14 points. Ohio State's offense was led by Stroot, who had 100 yards passing and 10 touchdowns.

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